

EVANGELISM

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1. THE VALUE OF SOULS

I would like to start a little series on the love or passion for souls. Lets turn to the gospel of Luke and start off from the story of the prodigal son. Very briefly, the younger son took all his inheritance, left the father, spent all his money and entered into such dire straits and terrible circumstances that he even wished he could have some of the pig's food. Finally, realization came into his life and he started the road back to the father. The father ran to meet him and embraced him. So, lets pick up the story when the father met the prodigal son.

Luke 15:20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. (His father really loves him.) And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robes, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet;

Now all these three areas are also symbolic. The best robe speaks about restoration of righteousness and praise. When we come back to God, God restores us, He cleanse us once again. When we have fallen into sin, He cleanses us and put on the robe of righteousness. And there is another garment He places on us the garment of praise. Once again, you can praise God; you can have a relationship with Him. Then the ring symbolizes a covenant. A covenant is renewed. The shoes are what contact the world. The shoes represent correct position in the world once again. You are in the world but not of the world.

So the father continue and said in verse 23 And bring the fatted calf and kill it; and let us eat and make merry; (we do not know how many years he has missed the son. But he certainly was glad to see him again. And every one was happy.) For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost; and is found. And they began to make merry.

His elder son was in the field. He had not heard about his younger brother coming back. So, he comes back and he sees a party going on. Incidentally, the fatted calf is specially set aside for auspicious occasions or joyous celebrations. Maybe the elder son could have been eyeing it for himself. So, the elder son came back and in this message, this story is the story of the elder son more than the younger son. The elder son came back from the hard work in the field.

In verse 25 Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.

His younger brother was back but there was no smile on his face. There was no pleasure in his heart. Instead, in verse 28 he felt angry and would not go in. I wonder what have happened if he had heard that his younger brother was dead. Probably such news would have gone around earlier because the father said he was once dead but now he is alive. But what would have happened if the news came back that the brother was confirmed dead. Would he have been happy any way? We do not know. Maybe he will say good riddance. Or maybe he would have some regret now that he is back.

Sometimes, we don't realize how much we have loved those whom we know, who are around us because we take them for granted. But if at any moment they were to be taken home then we realize how little we have loved them. I am only guessing but maybe if the younger brother actually died the elder brother may say he is my brother I really miss him. But now that he is alive and he is around, I don't like him. We don't realize how little we have loved until we have no more chance to show our love. How many of you here have loved ones gone home to be with the Lord and you wished that you have loved more. There are a lot of things that we wish we could do more if we were to be taken home to be with the Lord. No. 1 many of you would probably wish that you had more time for the Word. No. 2 many of you would have wished you had spent more time with the Lord in prayer. No. 3 many of us may not realize it but if you were to be taken out of your situation and separated from the people around you, you may have wished that you have loved more. Just a little bit more love, a little bit compassion, a little bit more time to give to those whom you got no more opportunity to love.

When the elder brother heard that the younger brother was alive, he was furious and angry. He said, "I am not coming in." What will you think if you were there? What would you have spoken to him if you were there? What would be your words to the elder brother? Would you come to him and said, "Are you not glad that he is alive? What do you want him to be? Dead or alive?"

But here is the father coming to him in verse 28 the father came out and pleaded with the older brother. Please take note of the word plead. Not demand but it says he pleaded with him. He says, "Come lets go please. Lets go in." Among his arguments in verse 29 Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends.

Now look at the elder brother's argument. I didn't have what you gave him. I never had the opportunity that you have given him these things. His mind was clouded with what he did not have. I want a part too. And I never had a party.

The Value of Souls

No. 1 the party was more important than his brother. I am sure that was not really deep in his heart that the party was more important than his brother. But all his reactions proved it. All his arguments proved it. My friends, is the party more important than your loved ones? None of us should be like the younger brother in a sense of being a prodigal. But are we like the elder brother or are we like the father? Is the party more important to you than your mother, your brothers, your sisters, your family, and your children, those in the Lord? I know that we are to love Jesus above everything. But sometimes, we love our jobs, we love our homes, we love our things more than we love people.

The elder brother continues his argument in verse 30 But when this son of yours came. What a statement. You only talk that way when you are angry. Instead of saying, "My brother," he said, "This son of yours." It is a case of am-I-my-brother's-keeper or Cain's Syndrome. If I were the father I would say, "This son of mine is also your brother." Sometimes when a child is doing well, scoring high grades and making the parents proud, the mother would be beaming and say, "That's my son." The father would be grinning and say, "That's my boy." But when he does something wrong,

either one would say to the other, "Please go and discipline your son." They changed the mine to your.

But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf. In other words, the elder brother is saying, "I don't understand your philosophy." Jesus left the story hanging. He didn't tell us what happened to the elder brother as if to imply that story is something that is irrelevant to us.

The father says in verse 31 Son you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. Now that statement is correct. Because earlier on in Luke 15:12 The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that falls to me." And he divided his living between them. In other words, the younger brother has no more inheritance. Everything that was left behind belongs to the elder brother as his inheritance. So legally, he had a point there. The father was right. He says, "All that I have is yours." You could have as many parties as you wish. But to the elder brother things were quite precious to him.

Now there are two extremes you can fall into. Either we are spendthrift or we are miserly. We should not be at either extreme. Some people are misers and they keep aside every cent that they collect. Its not just being economical I mean this is the extreme. Being economical is fair and fine. But they have gone to the extreme. Why, maybe the family never ever took a break together. They are always tightfisted even with five cents and putting everything aside without enjoying a holiday. No extra ice cream or circus show. And they say, "One day, one day we will enjoy all these things." In the teaching on prosperity, I talked about being balanced. When God started blessing your life you have to have a very balanced approach. Some people put aside every cent they earn and they really never enjoy life. They really worked hard, working 18 hours a day and they never really enjoy life at all.

The other extreme is where you enjoy every bit of money you have. By the time you reach your retirement you look into your bank account there is five cents. What happened to all the money? There is nothing planned for the future. It's a bad life also. I believe in being balanced. We got to be somewhere in between. We have to plan in spite of Jesus' coming. We still have to live our life with a budget and plan everything and at the same time, we need to take breaks and understand that there are some things you probably enjoy more when you are in your 30s than when you are in your 70s. So, you take a balanced view of that.

The elder son was probably way on the extreme end. He was always keeping and saving.

Things mean a lot to people like that. One additional cent means a lot. One extra calf means a lot. And the father said, "You could actually have your own party." I don't know why he was postponing the party. He could actually have his own party anytime. He didn't have any party at all. That is why a party means so much to him.

But the father said in verse 32 It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found. The second problem with the elder brother was his attitude towards things in life. What's the basic root problem here? Somehow, in his life the elder brother did not develop what I call a true value of

what is important in life. It is sad but true that in the society we live that the value of our life is based on our ability to earn money.

Many years ago, there was an accident in a factory in India and many were killed. The people filed a claim but the value of each of the lives of the people who died was so little. They value it in dollars and cents based on their earning power. But if that same person in the States had lost their arm or leg, they may be able to sue for many million of dollars. But over in India, the family received very little for the life of their lost loved ones. People in society value lives according to our status, according to our earning power. And we put that sub-consciously into our mind. This teaching is to remove that because there is something more in value than money. There are things that are more valuable and we need to be able to see it and inculcate that into our lives. It doesn't mean that we move to the extreme of being careless about things. But it does mean that there has to be a new attitude in our life. It just like for example if your little child breaks your expensive porcelain vase, not purposely but accidentally, you could be so angry that you lose your temper and let out a blast of words or maybe you discipline your child in anger. Some parents do that. They will hit the child, slap the child, kick the child, just because the child broke something of material value. But they forgot that a porcelain vase may be broken but they have destroyed a soul in the process. The child's psyche, soul and mind may be broken. At least you still can buy back a porcelain vase or get some equivalent. But you can never get back the same soul of your child once it is broken. I see it too often that in the materialistic pursuits of society and among Christians many times that the value of material things have sucked out the love for souls.

We need to place value for each soul. And that's the problem with the elder brother. There are a lot of elder brothers Christian who have placed more value on things and money than on souls. How do I know whether I am in that category? No. 1, if your car or your household things got scratched, broken or lost, will you get angry with the person who was responsible? Do you know that if Jesus were in your shoes He would not feel angry? So checklist No. 1 if somebody scratched your car; somebody breaks something in your home would you feel angry? Where is the anger coming from? That's is our question. It's coming from the fact that the value you placed on material things is higher than the value of the soul.

Checklist No.2, do we struggle to let go of physical things? Do you struggle when God deals with your life and love flows in your heart and soul? Do you struggle to let go of things maybe to let somebody else have those things? Do you struggle to give them away? If there is a struggle, we can be too closely tied up and attached to things.

So now lets go to some points that we want to bring from God's Word. In the parable of the prodigal son, we see that the elder brother seems to place a higher value on material things than on the life and soul of his own younger brother. What value should we then place on a soul? In Mark 8, this is the value that Jesus places on soul. Verse 36 For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what would a man give in exchange for his soul. What would it profit a man if he were to gain the whole world but loses his soul? Society at large today though humanistic in its form does not value souls as greatly as God does. But Jesus said in economic terms, if you put the world on one side of a scale and put just one soul on the other side, that one soul would be heavier in value than the whole world. So Jesus

said if you were to gain the whole world and all the money and gold and silver and lose your soul its still not worth it.

I like to state it in a more personal sense. If you could just win one soul, it is more important than getting another raise of a thousand dollars in your job or ten thousand dollars in your job. I hope that strikes hard. Because for many people may be in the business world to get another ten thousand dollars profit at the expense of a soul or hurting one more soul, stepping over one more soul, crushing another soul, they would still do it. The philosophy of the world is in direct contradiction to the philosophy of Christianity. My friends it's not worth it. By all means, be prosperous. But don't do it at the expense of your soul and the souls around you. That is why it is impossible for a Christian to really say that it's God who got them a job to be a salesman for cigarettes or to work in a cigarette company, knowing that smoking cigarette destroys life and destroy homes. It is the same with selling alcohol. If you have been in a family where there is an alcoholic, you know how the alcoholic can destroy the home. The father who is an alcoholic doesn't care about the home. He doesn't have love for his children or for his wife. All he cares for is the next drink. If you understand what is valuable it will affect the choices you make in your life dramatically. We can not run away from our conscience in our life unless what we do is legitimate and doesn't destroy souls, then its fine. But we have to have a conscience greater and deeper than what the world has. I mean some unscrupulous people don't care as long as they get the money.

Jesus is saying that just one soul is worth more than the world and it's not worth that exchange. What profit did Jesus say? There is no profit. So, He says what profit do you have if you gain the whole world but loses your own soul. I hope that thinking sinks into your life. So, the next time when you make a decision; if you are going to get another thousand dollars in your job and cause another soul to be lost I hope you learn to make the right choice. Choose rather that that soul may be won. Because the souls that we win are the true value that heaven has. Not a single part of our money is going to be of any use unless it affects souls in some way. And the things and the way we use our money should help souls rather than hinder souls.

There are more stories of this kind in the bible. You know the story of Martha and Mary. They both welcomed Jesus in the house. But Mary sat at Jesus' feet while Martha was busy serving. And Jesus made a statement and said that Mary has chosen the good part because it has relevance to the soul of a person. She was receiving the teaching of Jesus. Martha was concerned about material things. And she was so frustrated that she came to Jesus and said, "Please send Mary away from you and get her to help me." And Jesus told her, "Martha, Martha, why are you troubled about many things? Mary has chosen the good part."

What about the rich man who came to Jesus? In Mark 10:17 And as He was setting out on His journey, a man ran up and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said do these commandments. And he said in verse 20 "Teacher, all these I have observed from my youth." In verse 21 Jesus said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you have, give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But he could not do it. He was too materialistic. He couldn't do it because souls were not in his heart.

Brethren, if there is one thing that we need to do if we want to grow spiritually is to be able to love souls more and more. In 10 years' time, we should love souls more than we love souls today. And we should have a love for souls more than we have 5 years ago. As Christians, we need to develop a compassion for souls, a desire to see souls born again, souls being touched and transformed into the image of God. Why did Jesus Christ come to die for our sins and save us? Why did He save us? Because one soul is valuable to Him and there were many at stake. There is some thing about the value of a human soul that is deep in Jesus' heart, deep in God's heart.

The Image of God in Souls

I wrestled with it and asked, "Lord why is it so and how?" The Lord said from Genesis 1:26 when He gave Adam the authority He also said in verse 26 let us make man in our image. Man was created in the image of God. When God created man, He made man different. There was something about the soul of a man and woman that He has created. He sees something valuable. Just like some of you ladies, you may have some thing valuable to you. For ladies who love porcelain, a valuable thing to you would be a porcelain bowl or vase. Likewise, for a woman who loves jewelry, a piece of jewelry would be precious and valuable to her. But what is valuable to God when He created man is His image and likeness imprinted on the soul. Notice all the things that He created He only said it was good. When He made man, He said it was very good. All the gold and all the silver have always been there. Prosperity has always been there. All material needs have always been there. But it's the soul that is most valuable to God.

I want to change your life. I want to change your vision. Let the scales drop from your eyes so that when you walk out of this place this morning you will not see those buildings that are worth millions and millions of dollars. You would not see those things in the shopping or supermarket that could be worth thousands of dollars. But you will see those human beings all along the road as precious souls. More precious than ten thousand buildings. Something must change in our lives. So that when you go down the road even that one precious little beggar that you see as you walk along the street downtown sitting there with just a little hat in front of him, you know that one soul is worth more than the whole world. We need that love for souls. We need to see the value of souls. So that at least if you can not win them and bring them to Jesus and you can not bring the gospel to them at least your heart feels for them. At least your heart feels so much for them that you began to pray for them. The love for souls is what we need to have.

And I want you to know that if Jesus were to walk down the streets of Kuala Lumpur or any one of the cities He would not be looking at the buildings. He would be looking at souls. I mean there was a time when the disciples were captivated by the works of man. They said, "Jesus look at this great temple, the stones, and the architecture." And Jesus says not one of these stones shall remain. Because Jesus was looking at souls. He was not looking at things. We are to love people and use things, not love things and use people. Jesus sees every soul. And I could see Jesus reaching out to every soul, so that if He has any opportunity to win one more soul to God He goes for it.

Some of His disciples and some of the Pharisees and Sadducees didn't understand. In fact, the story of the prodigal son was told to the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The

background of the story is in Luke 15. They were all looking at Jesus and saying, "Why does Jesus spend time with all these sinners and outcasts of society? These people have no economic value, no social value and even no religious value. Why should Jesus waste His time? Jesus told a few parables. And each one of those parables has only one basic statement: souls are more valuable to Him than any substance on this planet earth. Just look very carefully at the gospel of Luke 15 that each of those parables that He told includes the prodigal son. And He actually compares the Pharisees and the Sadducees to the elder brother. The context is Luke 15:1 and 2. Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Him. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them. They say what a waste of these people. They value people according to finances and position. But Jesus values each soul. The first parable Jesus told them is in verse 4 the parable of the man with a hundred sheep. If he loses just one sheep, he will go all the way to look for it. You know why, because one soul lost causes grief to God. And in verse 8 Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? Then He talked about the parable of the lost son. What do all the parable speaks about? The love for souls. He passionately loves each soul. So point one we have determined the value of souls.

In point two, we see that each soul is created in the image of God. And if that creation of God doesn't grow and become like God the person that is most hurt is Almighty God. It is just like if you read in the newspaper about someone being a murderer, a thief, a robber, or some outcast in society, you do feel sad that such person has become like that. But it becomes more acute if that person is your son or daughter. How do you feel if that's your son or daughter in the headlines? You feel a personal loss greater than any others. Can you imagine how God feels when one soul is lost? God never intended for a single human soul to be lost.

Do you know that hell was never created for human beings? In Matthew chapter 25:41 Then He will say to those at his left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. I want you to know that God never created man to be lost. He created man to be in His image. And God has a great sense of personal loss than what we feel. I mean we will feel sad if anyone of our family is lost. But God's feeling and sense of loss is a billion times more. Because it is His creation. And the souls of lost man can become so perverted until they are no more in God's image when they die and are lost forever.

See the bible speaks about how in the hell fires there is the gnashing of teeth and the worms that never die. Those worms it talks about are not the worms we are thinking about, earthworms or some supernatural worms that torments people. If you look at the book of Isaiah when he talks about hell fire in chapter 66:24 And they shall go forth and look on the dead bodies of the men that have rebelled against me; for their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh. Do you notice a personal pronoun there? It's not just a worm; it's their worm. The Lord gave me to understand that its not some supernatural worm but the souls of lost men that were originally created in the image of God. Through sin and unrighteousness, their souls slowly turned into the image of the enemy until it reaches a point where their souls became like worms. They don't look like God any more. Sometimes, you look at some human beings that are so wasted away by sin and

wickedness that they don't really look like humans any more. Think about the diseases that afflict mankind. Some of the diseases that afflict mankind make a human being not look like a human any more. They look like a creature from outer space. If that can be what we see happening in the physical area by the ravages of sickness and disease, think about what happens to the soul of the person. When wickedness and sin gets into the heart of a person and remains permanently, what does the person's soul look like? The bible said they just look like worms. They don't even look human any more. I want you to know everyone of those high angelic powers that have fallen when Satan fell they don't look glorious any more. Demons may try to look lovely and beautiful but it is only a forgery. The real image of every demon is horrifying. They never look like that before they fell. Satan himself although he can appear as an angel of light his true image is now one of horror. Something has changed when wickedness becomes a part of the nature.

So, you could imagine why God loves souls. It is because He created souls in His image. And He wants so much that each soul grows up to be like Him. That's the most important thing in life to win souls. And some times it so happens that a soul doesn't grow up to be like Him. Some become worse. In John 8:44, He calls the Pharisees children of the devil. He says you are like your father the devil. Let me point to you some scriptures here. I want you to know how they became like the devil, not just in their opposition to Jesus. In John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desire. He calls them the devil's children. In John 6, He calls Judas Iscariot a devil because he has become devilish. Now that is not God's original purpose. Let me show you how they slowly became like the devil because the metamorphosis doesn't take place overnight. I want to warn you of the dangers of not being holy and righteous because you don't become like a devil overnight although we are born of the nature of God. We need to understand how to yield to God and be transformed to the image of Christ. There is no halfway point. We are becoming more like Jesus or we are becoming more like the devil. Some of you say you are born again. Yes thank God and please grow.

In the gospel of Matthew, we see the story of the Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry and all those people including the Pharisees and the Sadducees and the scribes. But Jesus reaches a point when I call it a cut off point when He no longer speaks any nice things about the Pharisees. Matt. 23 He began to speak woes to them. Among some of the things He said in verse 5-6 They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honour at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues. Verse 13 –14 But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrite! Because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in. So, it tells us there that they actually are greedy and they are covetous. You do a research on covetousness in a concordance and you will find that the most covetous people are the Pharisees and the Sadducees. In the scriptures, in the gospel calls them covetous. What's the problem here? People who value things more than people will slowly develop a nature that is devilish. It is a danger point that we want to point to. We must at all cost develop the love for souls and place a value for souls above things.

Your family will be a better place. Think about your family life. Problems and challenges may arise in the house but yet the love for one another will help them to overcome the difficulties. Why? It is because the love for souls is always greater than

anything. You can break a cup accidentally yet you won't be angry because you know the value of souls. Lets look at what the apostle John says in the book of I John verse 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, the love for the Father is not in him. If you don't have the love of the Father in you, you won't love souls. It is because you love things more than people. We have to have that dealt in our life so that we place a high value for souls. There are many things that Jesus spoke about the Pharisees. But basically, this is the main problem. They don't love souls. They love positions; they love money; they love a lot of other things but they don't love souls. Do you remember the time when Jesus healed a person and they got angry? Now if they love souls would they get angry? Of course not. Someone is healed; someone's daddy can now earn a living.

The root problem of a person backsliding is when they fail to love people. The greatest things in life come when we develop a yearning, a passion and a love for people. I believe there is one key area in the church of Jesus Christ that we need to develop. When we look at people, we need to love them more than any thing. We have to develop a passion for souls, a desire. Sometimes, it may cause us things to love souls. But we will choose to pay the price and suffer the loss of these things rather than suffer the loss of souls. If we could increase our love for souls at the expense of some things in our lives, let's do it because the value of souls is greater than the value of things. I mean many of us will be willing to give up something, to work harder to maybe be able to earn another one thousand or two thousand dollars more. Now why don't we work harder and why don't we be willing to give up some things in order to increase our love for souls? It is because we don't value the love for souls so we don't place a sacrifice. The things that you value you are willing to sacrifice for. And the things you don't value you don't sacrifice. But we value souls even though it may cost us great inconvenience. Sometimes, it may mean driving 500 miles to see your mummy and your daddy so that they know that you love them and you could win them to Jesus. You will do it. Do you love souls? - that is the question we ask.

In point two, we see that all souls were created in the image of God. And high purpose of God is for all souls to be conformed to His image. Why it doesn't conform to His image is because of the things of this world and when the love of the world comes into our life the love for souls disappears.

The Reward

Now point three the reward. In Daniel 12, he pronounced a special blessing in verse 3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. I have a few books about people who have gone to heaven. Among them is the book "Within the Gates" by Mariette Davis published by Christ for the Nations. It talks about people who have gone to heaven and who has a mansion and on their mansion, there are stars on it. And every time you win a soul to Jesus, you have a star on your mansion. Jesus marks our life by how many souls we win for Him and how many souls we develop for Him. Winning is one side and developing a soul is another. That is all based on our love for souls.

The world marks their life by how much they progress economically. If you are now able to purchase a flat, you felt that you are now better off. If last time you earn five

hundred now you earn one thousand five you felt you are better off. The world marks progress in life in terms of economic growth and power. It is the rat race. But my friends while on the world graph, you are getting higher and higher the ladder by growing richer materially but if your love for human beings lessens, your heavenly graph is actually going downwards. And if it progresses that way and you began to love things more and more, somewhere along the line, you become more like the devil. Whose graph are we following? The world's or God's? But the most important question is, whose graph are you using to measure your own life? Now it doesn't mean that you are going to lose out on the world when you love souls. It doesn't mean that economically, prosperity wise you are going lose out when you love souls. It never. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you. The most important thing in life is that we measure our life based on the love for souls and the souls that we have helped. Whether you have helped one more soul to be more like God, transform one more soul, you won one more soul these are the important marks in your life. Instead of measuring them by the hundred of dollars that increase in your salary and your living ability from a flat to a better housing you measure it by the number of souls you have won. Praise God, if your life could win one soul now you could win many more souls. And you could begin to transform more souls to Jesus. You began to pray for more souls. Your life and progress in God's sight is based on souls.

Now who are the wise? Turn to Proverbs 11. In Daniel 12, we speak about the wise in the Lord. In Proverbs 11:30 the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he who win souls is wise. You compare that to Daniel 12 you realize that it is winning souls that is important. We see loving souls now we see winning souls. Before we can win souls we must love souls. There are a lot of people who win souls because they feel obligated since it's the Great Commission and because they have a guilty conscience. But it doesn't start there. This is why in our church we don't push you to go out. We would rather teach you how you must develop a love for souls. Until more and more every time you go out you begin to see souls, you begin to pray, you begin to cry out to God for souls. You began to love souls. You began to hunger for more souls. Then one day you will be out winning those souls. Because it's no point trying to win them when you don't love them. They know that is fake. We must love them first. The love for souls must be strong in our life. And it starts with those around you your loved ones.

Lets look at I John if there is any book that speaks much about loving souls, it would be I John. We look at things now that begin and start in our life. The practical application on how to start developing love for souls is found here. I Jn. 2:9 He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in darkness still. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and in it, there is no cause for stumbling. Remember in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says if a person has anger against somebody else, he is in danger of hell fire. Because the influence starts coming in. So the practical application of loving souls is to first examine the root of all anger and hate. Do you know that we must reach a point where we do not have hatred and anger against any human beings? You can not be angry with one human being or hate one human being and be able to love the rest. Your anger against one will diminish your love for the rest. So, you got to get rid of that hatred and anger in your life against any one until no matter what people do to you there is no anger left in your life. Then only can the love for souls

develop in our life. So whatever people do to you, you never feel hurt. You only feel the love for souls coming out.

Then John also gives us another point here on how to develop the love for souls. In verse 15 do not love the world. Separate yourself from the things of this world then only will love be able to grow in your life for souls. Point 1 is getting rid of all hate and anger in your life against anyone. Point 2 is being separated from the things of this world the cares, the anxiety. Do you know that when Martha went to Jesus to get Him to send Mary to help her, she was actually angry with Mary and upset with her? Doesn't that tell you that she don't love souls? She loves things; she wants things to be proper. She would not have felt the anger against Mary because if her love for soul is greater than her love for things her outburst would never have happened.

Then we see in I Jn. 4:12 No man has ever seen God, if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. That is point three. If you want the love of God, which is also the love and passion for souls to be perfected start loving those you can see. Start right where you are with those people around you. Start right there and practice the love of God. Don't wait for some invisible things to happen. Because those people are visible around you. Your loved ones, your close friends that love for them must be there. In our personal life, we sometimes spend a lot of our savings in order to do things that we felt was right. Like for example, my family were all scattered all over in the sense that we were never closed to them. We were not able to bring the family together because basically we could not afford to bring the family together. So, after my father went to be with the Lord, I realized that we must gather all my family together with all my brothers and sisters. I know how precious it will be to my mother to see all of us together. It's easy together but it cost money. So for the past years I think we have spent about thirty thousand dollars. We could have used it to buy a new car. We could use it to put a deposit on our house. We only started doing that only last year. But before that we spent the money for the family gathering when we could have put the money for down payment for a house and then slowly paying off. For ten years, we lived in a rented house, took our savings, and used it to bring our families together. I am glad I did it because if my mother who is born again is going to die and going to be with God I may live to regret that I have not loved her enough. But I am willing to spend that money because I know that it is important to her. It is important to us that we have to start right with our family. It is not that we did it because we have lots of money. It dug deep into our savings. But we did it because we valued our family above money, things and convenience. I don't know what it will cost you to love people. It may cost you very dearly. But there is no such thing as loving souls that don't cost you anything. Our priorities are different. Do we have any regret that we did it? No, one day when we get back to heaven we would be glad we did it.

I am sharing this because some of us here are living with hatred and anger. And you are cutting the compassion for souls out of your life because you are not able to love another person. Maybe because you are just unwilling to make some sacrifices to love another soul. Maybe your car is more important to you than loving your parents. I know a lot of so-called Christian people who will spend all their money for their family and yet neglect their own father, and mother who may be in need. They would spend all their money on themselves but they have not developed love in their lives for their own brothers and sisters who are in need. And that's not true Christianity.

The love and compassion for souls start right where we are. We got to love those whom we can see. Although we can see them, you may not want to start there. You want to start with a stranger. Don't try to cross the ocean to love a stranger when you can't love your own neighbor. Some long term and short term missionaries are prepared to travel thousands of miles at great expense and win strangers on foreign soil, but when they come back home, they won't even talk to their immigrant neighbors. We use things and love people. Let us not love things and use people.

2. THE BLESSINGS FOR LOVING SOULS

In this message, we want to look at the benefits of having the love for human souls. We spoke about the value of human souls in the last message.

Lets look at the book of Proverbs 19 and we will see the first benefit of having compassion for souls. In Proverbs 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given. The word pity here is not just a human feeling. But it is the Hebrew word hanan, which means to really to have compassion and a generosity towards the poor. The emphasis is not just on helping the poor. In society, people do help the poor but sometimes it is commercially motivated. For many big companies it looks good for them to be a part of social work. They do it more because of free press publicity rather than because they really feel some compassion for the poor. Yet, at the same time its not just feeling without action. So, the Hebrew word hanan not only speaks about a sense of compassion, which motivates and moves us to a generosity for those who are poor but it also speaks about a love, a consideration for human souls. And souls are more important to you than things around you. And your heart feels it when another human suffers. Whether they suffer lack of need or any areas of their lives, your heart feels it. And it takes a passion and a love for souls to feel the sufferings of other human beings. It is actually there inherent in our spirit. But as we grow up in our adult life the goals and pursuits of our individual lives occupy our attention and concentration and we forget that in society there is a cry of human souls, cry of need, cry of lack, and we classify all of them under this group that the bible calls the poor.

And here the blessing is that God Himself hears their cry, And God is touched when we begin to respond to the need of the souls around us. The bible says when we do so we are doing it as unto the Lord. God considers our doing of it a lending onto Him.

Lets look at Matt. 25:31 onwards this is in regard to the judgment seat and Jesus Christ here pronouncing the judgment. "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at his left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer Him, "Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visited Thee? And the King will answer them, Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me. Then He will say to those at His left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me. Then they will also answer, Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee? Then He will answer them. Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the

least of these, you did it not to Me. And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

What separates the sheep from the goats? The goats were selfish. The sheep cares for others, for the needy, the lost, souls that are hungry, thirsty, sick, imprisoned. In other words, the sheep has a compassion for souls whereas the goats are just interested in their own lives. The definition of sheep and goats is of course based on the acceptance of Jesus Christ or non-acceptance of Jesus Christ. It goes further than that. Perhaps we are born again and potentially saved but we still behave like a goat. One of the characteristics of goats in the natural is that goats are very individualistic creatures. They don't travel or move about in flocks like sheep. There is a difference you seldom see a herd of goats but sheep need one another. They always flock together. You seldom see sheep individually going by themselves and if they do so, they tend to get lost. The characteristics of a sheep are that we would have compassion, a care and the love for other fellow human beings, a love for humanity, a love for souls in the core of our heart.

The other basic thing that we see here is that we show our love to the Lord by loving souls. Our love for the Lord in fact is measured based on that. I have always been amazed by the fact that the Lord's joy and sorrow are to a certain extent dependant on what happens to human beings. Let me show it from the bible. In Genesis 6 about Noah's flood, it says that the Lord was grieved. The Lord felt sorrow. We know there is joy in the presence of God but here the bible says the Lord is grieved. And every time when people turn way from God like in the Old Testament times, it says the Lord was grieved. And then only you read about the Lord being angry. His grief comes before His anger. Before He poured down judgment in the flood in Noah's time we read about His sorrow and His anger. I am always stunned by the fact that God's joy and sorrow is related to what happens to human soul. Why is that so? It is because we are His creation. All mankind was potentially created to be His sons and His daughters. He gave us life and He feels it every time a lost soul comes to know Him. The bible says all the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. I believe that their joy comes from God. God is so happy and His joy radiates to all angels. I wonder what the scene is like in heaven. We think that God sits up there and is emotionless. But there is something about God that you know when He is grieved and you know when He is pleased. All the angels are around the throne always worshipping Him. I believe that there are some times when God consider some things and the angels could sense that quietness that comes over the presence of God. There would be silence in heaven or some thing.

Let just read Genesis 6:6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart. I wonder what all the angels felt like when God was grieved. Gabriel, Michael, and all the worshipping angels were around to witness God's grief and anger. The judgment through the flood was coming and probably there were millions of human souls at that time. Out of these millions, only eight would be saved. Before God poured down the judgment, around the throne of God in heaven the angels were rejoicing and worshipping. Suddenly the angels sensed quietness. I don't know whether God has tears or not. I know Jesus Christ has since He became man. I know the Holy Spirit can be grieved. But I don't know whether God the Father really cry tears. Some mystical writers have written that God the Father do cry tears. I know He feel grieved and sorrow but I am not sure whether tears

roll out. When He grieves what would you do if you were one of those worship angels? That grief must have been felt in heaven. God is pleased when His Son laid down His life to redeem souls. God is grieved when souls are lost. God is pleased when souls are won. When God is pleased, the angels could feel it since it vibrates to them and causes them to be joyful. So, when it was time for Jesus Christ to come to redeem mankind, He emptied Himself and came down as man. For the first time there is going to be salvation in a true sense for mankind. On that first Christmas we read about all the angels rejoicing, glory be to God in the highest. You know why they are joyful? Papa God was joyful. You can imagine God's excitement when He sends His only Begotten Son. That excitement radiated to all the angels. God gets excited when souls are won. Jesus Himself declares that when one soul is won to Him, just one soul added to His kingdom, the Father God gets excited and all the angels get excited and rejoice.

That's why I could understand a little bit more in the book of Revelation 8:1 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Do you know what that silence meant? God is thinking and grieving. Now you know why there is silence in heaven. Do you think it's easy for God to just pour down His judgment? Do you think it's easy for a father to discipline a child that he loves? This is not just mere discipline; He is going to destroy. As a judge, He has to do it. It would be just like a judge who happens to find out that the criminal he is going to try is his own son that has committed a crime of murder. The father had to judge his own son. And he wrestles between his family love and the law. The law has to prevail as otherwise, he would be an unjust judge. And for half an hour before the earth was to experience the most destructive judgment that would destroy billions of lives, the Father God is silent. No angel dare make a single noise at all.

I read about how in the Gulf war when former President Bush of the United States had to make a decision to send the soldiers in. Being a born again believer, he went to seek God and he cried. He cried because he knew that something had to be done but lives were going to be lost. And he knew that the decision he makes would cost human lives. How would you like to be in that place? As a human being, he could feel it. That is the cost of such a decision because you don't win a war without sacrificing lives. And he knew that he was deciding the deaths of others. It's not an easy decision.

Now if we could sort of comprehend that feeling in President George Bush a little bit in the natural, you multiply that by billions and billions of times and you could imagine the feeling that was there when there was silence in heaven for half an hour. God was just grieving. For a moment, He held back. It was not easy to lift that hand of judgment. Why must there be silence in heaven? It was for God to grieve. God loves souls. He loves souls so much that He finds it hard to allow the law to destroy us. But as a righteous Judge and the Ruler of the universe, He has to uphold His law. Otherwise, the universe would be in a chaotic situation. And He has to bring judgment down where it's due even to His own creation. All the angels had to give God a moment of sorrow. I believe that no matter how great that we feel a compassion for souls, which those in the ministry possibly feel, and every Christians possibly feel, we can not match that feeling of what God really felt. I just pray that somehow in this series you would just catch a glimpse, a holy glimpse of the heart of God. Perhaps something would change of the materialistic character of our being, something may change of our selfish nature, and somehow on our inside we begin to catch the

capacity to love souls the way God loves souls. When we really love souls the way God loves souls God gives you the power to help them.

In Proverbs 19 just now we read that he who take pity or have compassion and generosity towards the poor lends to the Lord. Why? Because God feels for them. And when you do so, you are quote unquote helping God, even without the rewards that motivate us to love souls. We are motivated by the knowing that every time a soul is loved our Father God has less to sorrow for.

Prosperity

The first blessing for loving souls is prosperity. When you love souls God gives you the power to show the love. This is the secret of the wealth of the sinner coming to the righteous. Every Tom, Dick and Harry is claiming that promise, even selfish people are claiming that. My friends the wealth of the sinner doesn't just come for the righteous for nothing. The wealth of the sinner comes to the righteous to enable the righteous to love souls. Proverbs 28:8 One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor. That is the same Hebrew word hanan or pity the poor.

My friends, we have to really understand the true essence and purpose of prosperity. Prosperity is not given so that you live in mansions. Prosperity is not given so that we will drive luxurious cars. Prosperity is not given so that we would have the best in life. Prosperity is given so that we would have a greater capacity and power to love souls. Therefore, if we desire prosperity that God talks about the wealth of the sinner you must love souls and show it first. Have a generosity, have a compassion, both in your inner most feelings and in your actions, in your heart, in words and in deeds. Now which comes first, the prosperity or the pity of the poor? The pity of the poor because Proverbs 28:8 says God gathers the wealth for those who pity the poor. You must already be taking pity on the poor first. All those rich people on this earth if they do not use their wealth to love souls, their wealth will end up with those that do love souls. That's the Word of God. Such people will be rich, even unbelievers who do not know God but yet have the capacity and love for human kind. They really want to help their employees, they really want to help another human being find and establish their own life.

There is some thing about this truth here that we need to take note of. That it is a blessing when you love souls. When you love souls, it is not that things would be taken from you, even though you will give a lot away. But it is being like God. When you expand on the inside to love others, God will expand you on the outside and give you the capacity to do so. And unless there is an expansion on our inside, there is no expansion on our outside. Remember there are two things. One is the feeling for it and the other is the action for it. This is what I personally believe. Sometimes the extra things that God has given us are meant to bless other. Whether it is material prosperity, whether it is a position in life, maybe God has promoted you and put you in a certain powerful position, you are there to help. God gives you a greater capacity to love souls. And if we are not faithful in the position and in the wealth God has given us, He will give it to another one who will do the way He wants.

Turn to Mark 10:30 Who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecution, and in the

age to come eternal life. But look at verse 29 Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for My sake and for the gospel. There are two purposes given to us. First, it is for Jesus' sake. Why? It is so that we could love like He loved. Second, it is for the gospel, to win souls. He that wins souls is wise. Now which comes first? Giving ourselves for Jesus sake and for the gospel or the hundredfold? Of course, you give to Jesus and the gospel first. We must have that in our life all the time. We must be seeking to fulfill Jesus' life in us His love for souls. Seeking to win souls to the gospel and then the hundredfold comes. Remember it is not just giving that brings it. The law of giving is found in Luke 6:38 but this is more than the law of giving it's the law of the hundredfold. And it's based upon our prime motivation. We must have a passion for souls and we give our lives to help souls. Then God will prosper you and give you a hundredfold capacity to do it. So what's the purpose of the hundredfold? It is so that you could love and give your life even more for Jesus' sake and for the gospel. It is to give you a greater capacity to do what you are already doing; it is not meant for you to have a greater ability to live in luxury. I am not against people having wealth and material goods that God blessed them but the fact is we should not be seeking material wealth when we are really born again and renewed in our mind. The hundredfold is for loving souls, a greater capacity to love souls so that you don't have to worry about where you are going to get the money to do God's work of loving and caring for souls. All we have to do is to be concerned that our prime motivation in life is to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are to love souls the way God loves us and to give our lives to continue to love them.

II Cor. 8:14-15 But that as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality. As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing over, and he who gathered little had no lack." The point of the fact here is that the abundance God gives to one life is to give them the capacity to help other lives that are in lack. All our wealth, all our prosperity, and every position of power and authority on this earth are given by God to increase our capacity to help others. Lets understand that. We are sheep and not goats. We seek to love souls and to help with all the capacity of our being even though we may not receive an immediate reward. Suppose you are driving along and you see somebody in need or perhaps there was an accident and nobody was helping him or her and you got your appointment to catch. Are you the type of person who just had to stop to see that that person gets help first? That situation will reveal our character, whether we are selfish and just concentrating on our own goals or whether we have a capacity to love souls everywhere, that we just want to make sure that all souls receive some help somewhere. Sometimes, you want to help and your capacity is not there. But because you desire to help one day God increases your capacity to help. So, lets start in our heart. The first reward for loving souls is prosperity.

Wisdom

The second reward is wisdom. Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who win souls is wise. If you read that verse in the Hebrew the word "is" is not in that verse and it sounds more like this: The fruit of the righteous, the tree of life. Another version says, the produce of the righteousness is life; then the second part says, he who win souls, wise. The train of thought is consistent in both parts of

the above verse. Just as the fruit or produce of the righteousness is the tree of life, likewise the fruit or produce of winning souls is wisdom. Or wisdom is produced when you care and you love souls. It is not so much as he who wins souls is wise, but the more correct rendering should be he who wins souls becomes wise. And that's the second benefit for having the love for souls. God gives you wisdom to help them. It's strange but the purpose of the truth of knowledge given to us is that it gives us a greater capacity to help others. And God gives us wisdom because we desire to help others. That's the second great blessing. God will make you a wiser person. God will increase your wisdom then you could help others.

Lets give an example in II Chronicles. Here is the life of Solomon before he receives wisdom. II Chron.1:6-10 And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the Lord, which was at the tent of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it. In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said to God, "Thou hast shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and hast made me king in his stead. O Lord God, let Thy promise to David my father be now fulfilled, for Thou hast made me king over a people as many as the dust of the earth. Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this Thy people, that is so great?"

The next verse is where we want to focus on. God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart." Before he prayed that prayer, what motivated him to pray that prayer was the desire in his heart. If right now God were to send an angel to appear and say to you, "Ask anything you want," what is in your heart will come out. Solomon didn't expect the Lord to give him the liberty to choose. Not only did God come and say, "I have come to answer your prayer," but also here, God says, "Choose." And Solomon's choice is based on his love for his people. God said that it was in his heart. Solomon has a heart for people. He felt he needed to help the people. God says because this was in your heart, it pre-existed even before you prayed to Me, God says and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honour, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked long life, (Solomon did not ask for the things that most people would have asked. But he asked for wisdom) but has asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may rule My people. That he learns to be a better shepherd for his people that he may learn to be a better king for his people. He loves the people and he cares for them. And the passion and love that he has for them came out in his prayer and God recognized it. He didn't ask for his enemies' lives, didn't ask for long life, he didn't ask for riches, he didn't ask for honour. And God gave him a bonus that we already saw in point one: all those bonuses of prosperity will always come. But the focus is God will give you wisdom to help others.

Think about other people like Joseph in the prison in the book of Genesis. As he was in prison, he noticed his two new prisoners the butler and the baker. As they were there, they were sad. He said to them and said, "Why are you sad?" Now who started the conversation? Joseph. I may be a little upsetting here but listen very carefully: an introvert person is a selfish person because he only thinks of his own life. We need to look out and to look up to care for others. Sometimes, we are not introverted by choice; we are introverted by circumstances, by our upbringing. But that has to change. By the time I was 17 I was an introvert. I never had a close relationship with my own parents or with my brothers and sisters. I naturally became an introvert. Because all I thought about was my life and what I wanted to do with my life. But

God has changed that after I was born again and after I entered the ministry. If you were to sit together with twenty people and fellowship, if you are an introvert you don't care for people. You don't start a conversation you let people start the conversation. There is something inherently wrong. And that has to change. We are not expecting you to change immediately. But it has to change first of all it has to come from your life that you care for people sometimes even for strangers. You have to have a certain care that comes naturally. Recently I was with one doctor and we were working on the tape project. Then he got a call to attend to one patient who was 84 years old. When he came back from his call, though it was none of my business, it came out naturally. I asked, "How is the patient now?" Then I realized that God must have put something in my heart. It was none of my business but something comes out that you do care for a person you never met before. One reason I asked is that I could also pray for him. But that's concern and care for souls is what needs to be rooted in our hearts.

In the book of Genesis 40:6 When Joseph came to them in the morning and saw them, they were troubled. Question if you were in that position would you try to cheer that person? Some Christians won't even care. They mind their own business. But Joseph had some authority. Remember authority is given to us by God to help others. See Joseph is blessed because there is an inherent care that developed in him. There you see the two jokers, the butler and the baker. They both had the body posture of someone very depressed. What would you have done? Perhaps you may not be Joseph, you may not be in prison, and they may not be prisoners. Perhaps they are your own office colleagues. Maybe you work in a big company and you don't really know everybody. But it becomes so obvious that, that person is really having some problem. What would you do? You say, "I am going to mind my own business. I don't know them. They may reject my help." True, but at least you could have come to them and said, "Hi are you all right? If you need anything just let me know." Don't you think that will make a difference? That's what we call Christianity. You reach out; you don't wait for people to reach out to you. What would you have done if it has been verse 6 of that situation for our life somewhere?

Joseph didn't know it and nobody would have realized it that that was the most important thing Joseph did. Perhaps the most important thing that you ever did was to show concern for somebody else. Joseph didn't know it but that was the key to his freedom. But for some people it takes that before we move out of our self-centeredness to help another person in their own work. We need initiative. Most people just couldn't care. And Joseph was that type of nature. When he came and saw that they were sad, something on his inside reached out. He knew what it was like to be sorrowful. He knew what it was like to be cast out, cast down, rejected, despised. And somehow, through the Lord he had lifted himself up by God's grace. So, he comes and sees these two sad new prisoners and they are really down. Remember he doesn't know what they have done. They may have been murderers, killers, thieves, and robbers. He came to them and asked, "Why are you sad, can I help you?" This is a love for souls. Because of that, Joseph received greater wisdom to help others.

The blessings, he that wins souls is wise. And the word wins is the Hebrew word *laqah*, which means to take, to fetch or to bring. That means initiative. We have to take initiative to win souls. And that will produce wisdom in your life, which is the second great blessing. That was not the first time Joseph did that. He probably did it

all the time. That was how he wins the favor of the keeper of the prison. He noticed that Joseph was such a different prisoner. He was so helpful and desirous to help. And he says, "Well I am going to promote you." We realize that Joseph never had any indication that he had receive power or wisdom to interpret dreams and it's a gift of wisdom to interpret dreams. Somewhere at that time in his life, he developed the gift to interpret dreams. It was wisdom from above that grew into his life because he had the capacity to love others, to care for others, to be concerned for others. One day God said, "Joseph I am going to bless you with position." And He takes him, places him at the right hand of Pharaoh, and makes him a man to help other people. Wisdom brings of course prosperity and position but we focus on point two on wisdom.

Wisdom is your blessing when you want to help others. But we must have the desire and the love to help before God gives you the ability and wisdom to help. I like to extend the wisdom to include all the types of wisdom. We studied wisdom before. We talked about the five different types of wisdom. It could be any area. Perhaps you have a desire to help in some areas. When you started off you don't even have any talent. But because of your desire, God gives you the talent or causes you to develop talent in some area. It's powerful if you understand that the love for souls and the love to help others will bring rewards that are special. Literally everyone who had succeeded in life in some way whether they be a musician or a professional, did so because they have that something extra. Do you realize that? Suppose you are at the top of your profession you realized it is not because you are necessarily the best. Probably somebody somewhere else could have done a better job than you or have a greater talent than you. But we would find that the main reason why you are right there at the top is because you have a greater capacity to love souls. Somebody else more talented may never reach the top because they were selfish.

Friendship with God

Third blessing. Moses was up the Mount Sinai receiving the law. While God was giving him the law and telling him all kinds of things suddenly in Exodus 32:7 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down; for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. Instantly God knew. Moses didn't know because Moses was on the mountain while down there they were making the golden calf. But God told Moses, "Get down now for your people are sinning." In verse 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them; they have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people; now therefore let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; but of you I will make a great nation." But Moses loved the people although the people don't love him as much as he loved them. God said, "I am going to destroy all of them." If Moses had any unforgiveness or anger in his heart for his people, his people would have been finished. But Moses said, "Please God don't destroy them." Don't you think he love the people? Look at what God promised him. "I will make you a great nation." But Moses said, "Please Lord don't destroy them." Something of the love for human kind comes in. No matter how they have failed, no matter what they have done he still says, "Please Lord don't destroy them." Of course Moses was quite upset with the people. Moses came down destroyed all the idols and

went back to talk with God. But some thing happened between Moses and God that day. There was a difference in God's relationship with Moses from that day.

In Exodus 33:7-10 Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp and called it the tabernacle to meeting. Now some thing happened that day. You may not have noticed it. Moses' tent was all the time with the people, but from that day onward, his tent was pitched outside from the camp. This means that Moses now stood in the gap for the people because of his love for them. God must have instructed him to take his tent; notice in verse 7 his tent. He took his tent and he put it far from everybody. And he called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door, (Remember the tabernacle was not completed until chapter 40. Moses had just received his instructions. There was none of all those furniture built yet.) and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, every man in his tent door.

From that day onwards, God stopped by the front door of Moses. Moses' house became God's house. There was a special relationship between them. Verse 11 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Something special took place that day. And it all started because Moses had a love for souls and would not let them be destroyed.

The third blessing when you love souls is you enter into a deep special friendship with God. God is your father, God is your friend. Now Jesus is our friend but I am talking about Almighty God the Father. We all know what it is like it depends on how close you are to you earthly father. Sometimes, you respect your earthly father that you really talk to him. He is your father but not your friend. But as you grow in life and you have a proper relationship with him, your father also becomes your friend. Now Moses had God as his friend. That pillar of cloud that they have been following is now with Moses.

To prove that this is a special blessing related to our passion and compassion for souls turn to James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness; and he was called the friend of God. Now Abraham also developed such a relationship because he had love and compassion for souls. I am sure you read about how Abraham interceded for wicked people like Sodom and Gomorrah, and how he helped Lot when Lot was in trouble. Look at the context of James 2 and see what he is talking about. In the beginning of chapter 2 it says to show no partiality. When someone comes who is poor, or someone comes who is needy; and someone who had a different need in their life, he says you must help them. You must seek out to love them. And basically, he is talking about good works. In verse 14-18 What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and is lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But some one will say, "You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you

my faith. And then he talks about Abraham having both faith and works. He talked about Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac. His faith was activated by his works. Its not just works alone. In verse 22, you see faith was working together with his works. Now you notice some thing about Abraham too - he was hospitable. When he saw the three strangers who were God and the two angels, he ran to them. He was one who loves souls and human beings. And God made him a friend of God.

The third blessing for loving souls is you become a friend of God. Because you understand God, God can come right down to you at His level. There is a special relationship between the two of you when you have a passion for souls. Your tent will be placed far out like Moses', showing that you are indeed far out in your friendship and relationship with God. Your tent is not pitched together with the rest of selfish, greedy, covetous, materialistic and evil human kind. But you will be among those who are like God. God is your friend.

3. PAUL - A MAN OF PASSION

This morning we want to look at the apostle Paul's life and see a man of passion. He did say, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ." As far as Christianity is concerned, only people of passion have affected the world's history. Christians who have passion have changed the world for the sake of Christianity and for the good of Christianity. Not by Christians who have talents alone; not by Christians who have gifts alone; not by Christians who have ability, status. But the world has been changed and history has recorded the changes that had been brought about by individuals who have changed this planet earth and caused the gospel to go forth. And these individuals are people who have demonstrated one common trait. Some of them are not the most talented people in their generation neither are they the most brilliant; neither are they the most capable in training. But there is one thing that makes them stand apart from any others. They have a passion for souls. They love souls. And that's what we want to see this morning. That if you have only one ounce of talent but a thousand pounds of compassion your one ounce of talent can influence maybe a million souls. But if you have a thousand pounds of talent and you only have one ounce of passion I don't think you can even win a soul. How we must evaluate our lives as we yearn for the gifting of God and yearn to be used by God. We realize that before we can utilize God's power we must understand God's heart. When we have His heart then we can utilize His power. If you analyze the life of Jesus Christ it is always love comes before power. For God so loved the world, then He gave His Son and His Son came to destroy the works of the enemy.

Let's look at Romans 9. Paul here speaks from his heart. He is actually writing to the Romans. But as he wrote about the gospel and the basic doctrine of what he believes the gospel to be, a portion of heart suddenly flowed out. His love and passion for his fellowmen the Jews is revealed. Rom. 9:1-6 I am speaking the truth in Christ, I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from my kinsmen by race. They are Israelites, and to them belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever Amen. Paul prayed and expressed his desire for the Jews. And he said how he has continual sorrow. He has great sorrow and continue grief in his heart for his fellowmen and that flowed from his love for them.

Depths of Suffering

There are three areas that we want to look at when we look at the passion for souls and what makes this kind of people stands out. The first is to see that to have passion for souls is to understand the depths of their suffering and sorrow and their grief. It is identification with their sufferings and their sorrows. When God says He loves us, He expresses it by sending His Son to taste our suffering and to die in our place. And none of us can argue with that kind of love. In a similar sense, the love that we say we have for souls must be something in such a manner that we could feel the sorrow and the grief in another life. How true those words are in the book of Psalms that those who sow in tears will reap in joy. Although we want to be balanced, in a normal Christian life, the normal emotion for Christians should be joy. While we are touching on this area of sorrow, we are not saying that Paul went around with a long face and

there is no joy in his Christian life. But we are talking about the things that were in his heart, the burden that he carried for others and the sufferings that he bore. Some of us may never understand this emotion. It is possible to have the joy of Christ and yet have tears in our eyes for souls. It is possible to have the spiritual experience of joy and satisfaction in Christ while you have sorrow and heaviness in your soul because others are not saved yet. That's something that an unbeliever can never understand. There is a supernatural joy that can never be quenched. But yet, in the course of our life because of our love we feel that tremendous grief and sorrow for others. The people who have changed this planet earth for Christianity are those who have experienced great burdens and sorrows for those whom they have ministered to.

That is the problem with modern ministry and modern Christianity. We have people with what we call lack of commitment. Every time a difficulty comes, they quit or get easily discouraged. Many graduates of bible schools and seminaries when they go out to ministry the first thing they do is get discouraged. It is because the schools may have prepared them theologically. The schools may have prepared them in biblical training. But the schools did not impart the passion for souls into their lives. And without that passion for souls, you definitely have no guarantee of success in the ministry. For it is the passion for souls that will make a person go to all ends to win that one lost sheep. And it is the passion that enables the person to endure all the most difficult circumstances in order to win a tribe or a nation to the Lord Jesus Christ. Sometimes that passion can last for years.

Think about people like David Brainerd who ministered to the North American Indians. God called him there and if you want to develop passion read the diary of David Brainerd. And it is the life of David Brainerd written by Jonathan Edwards. It is most like Kenneth Copeland writing the biography of Kenneth Hagin. Jonathan Edwards himself was powerful and famous. You could see David Brainerd must have influenced the Jonathan's life himself. He was just a simple missionary who went to North America and for many years, he had no results. But his diary touched me from the early life and everyday you see him crying for the souls. Everyday you see him crying onto God for those souls. Page after page in his diary his passion flowed out until after many years the breakthrough came. I wonder how many fresh new ministers can last that long. Why did he last that long? He had passion. He had no bible training or rather he was expelled from the seminary. He had only one thing in his life, passion, and a passion for the souls of this North American Indians who did not know Jesus Christ. Paul says I have continual sorrow.

Now lets look at II Corinthians 11 and see some of the passion this man had been through. Verse 23 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one - I am talking like a madman - with greater labors. Why did he do all those things? Why did he labor more than do others? Is it because he could get a financial reward? Is it because he can get more recognition? It is because of his love for souls. I pray that every minister, every bible school student will be motivated by the pure desire for souls. That's the only thing that will be able to cause you to be immune to every onslaught of the enemy against your ministry. That passion is like propulsion in the rocket that thrust you into the outer space of God's presence and reward and of souls. He says far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times, I have received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times, I have been beaten with rods, once I was stoned. Three times I have been shipwrecked; a night and

a day I have been adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, dangers from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren; in toil and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

Sometimes, I don't understand new people or young people who move into the ministry and they don't have as much energy. I remember when I was in the seminary we worked right through the night sometimes for a camp. There is a zeal that drives us on, pushes us on. That's the kind of passion that will push a person to the extent that no matter what circumstances you are in. Some of us may have it easier and some of us may have it harder. But remember the circumstances do not determine your success. What is in your heart determines your future success. If you have never experience weariness and toils, you know nothing about passion. Anyone who has been in the ministry knows that the ministry is not measured from 8 to 5. If you enter the ministry and all you desire is only work from 8 to 5 pm, you have no passion. If Jesus said He would only work 8 to 5, He would have been a bad example for us. If the apostles worked 8 to 5 that would have been the end. My friends although we are balanced and we know when to rest and when to work, but there is such a thing as knowing that being in the ministry is like being a doctor - you are on call all the time. And you know that whether you are in your regular office work or out of it, it occupies your heart and it occupies your mind. That's the kind of passion in a minister that God wants to establish that would take this last generation for Jesus Christ.

Verse 28 look carefully this is where the sorrow comes. And apart from other things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches. Notice how many times it comes to him, daily. Kathryn Kuhlman in her book "A glimpse of Glory" that in her position if she has to listen to every thing that is said about her, she would be hurt and cut up all over. And she had to choose how to tolerate that. She has to learn how to die to self. It is a part of maturity to learn to handle criticism. That tells you how many are not matured. The difference between an adult and a child is the ability to handle criticism. Sometimes, you can be fifty years old and you are not able to handle it. You haven't grown although your physical body has grown. Your soul is still at the childhood stage. I always like to push people a little bit especially when they are middle aged and older. I say, "Come on you don't want to be like that when you are ninety. You don't want to be remembered as a nasty old fellow." You see sometimes we don't realize that if we don't somehow find the mechanism within our lives to change, you may end up unchanged by the time you are ninety. But sometimes on the inside, there is a realization so deep and strong that you say, "Hey, I better change. If I don't change now, at eighty I'll still be the same." Think about it - if you reach the age of fifty-five, sixty, will you be the same in character? Will you be as snappy in criticism? Will you be as reactive? Are you going to change? Are you going to carry that to the grave? Some thing on your inside says I am not going to be. And that does the process.

Paul says here that everyday he feels a deep concern for the churches coming to him. But there is some thing about Paul when you read this passage here. When I read this passage here I said there is only one thing that drives him through all these forty lashes minus one, and beaten with rod three times and all these shipwreck, there is only one thing that drives him, his love. There is no reward that can pay for all these

things that he has gone through. It is his love to bring the gospel to souls who need to hear the gospel. And in these things that make the difference between whether you are a grade "A" Christian or minister and a great "F" Christian or minister. It all has to do with some thing in our heart called passion.

Look over to II Corinthians 2:3 at what Paul expresses in his life, And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not be pained by those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears. This is only one of those things that came to him daily. He says, for out of much afflictions and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears. Do you know that I Corinthians was written with many tears? Remember we talked on how the greatest poetry comes from the greatest suffering. What happened to Paul actually? You see these same people whom Paul had brought to the gospel and he had build and planted a church. They began to question Paul. They began to question his apostleship. They began to question his leadership because somebody else came. Apollos came and Cephas came, remember that and they began to break up into groups. Apollos didn't cry for them. Cephas didn't cry for them. And Paul told them you can have ten thousand teachers but you got only on papa. They got only one who really cares for them the rest are all teachers. That was what made Paul stand out in his life.

When I put people into the leadership I try to hear not only their words or their mind I want to hear their heart. I want to hear their love for people, their passion because I know without that it will be a disaster. For the church is not a commodity. It is an organization of people. And love is the greatest qualification for any leader. Even then, we need to learn to maintain love in our life. Sometimes things catch up with us. And we neglect the most important thing, which Paul says the greatest is love. I think there is no greater poetry that expresses love than I Corinthians 13. Remember this I Cor. 13 was written with tears flowing down his eyes. Paul was literally weeping when he said love is kind, love thinks no evil, love seek not its own, etc. Love was literally pouring out from his life when he wrote those words.

Lets read II Cor. 2:4 For I wrote to you out of much afflictions and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you. This is the man who changed the world in his generation. And if you want to change the world in your generation, this is the key. A thousand pound of love makes your one-ounce of talent go far much further than anything.

Think about Kathryn Kuhlman's life: it's not just her gifts and her word of knowledge. It is her love. You read her biography, "A Glimpse of Glory" you will understand that the key was her love. She said these words "When she prays for a sick person she feels this love coming out and she feels like she wants to give her life so that this person could live." That is the kind of love that changed the world. Paul had that same passion and love. People sensed whether you love them.

When you go to a Kathryn Kuhlman's meetings as you walk in you could sense some thing there: love. People could sense it. There seems to be an inbuilt sensor within all our lives sub-consciously and we are drawn to those who really love us. And we are turned away from those who don't really love. Sometimes people do a job because of duty and because of the rewards but there is no love and people know it. People sensed it. That's why I say it's a difference between a grade "A" and a grade "F".

Lets look at the apostle Paul in the book of Acts chapter 20:31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night and day to admonish every one with tears. Can you imagine weeping day and night for three years? I am sure he was quite a joyful person. But there are many times tears come to his eyes when he ministered to his people. He lived for only one reason - for souls. Didn't he tell us his reason in Philippians? He says that to be with Christ is better but nevertheless for your sake he chooses to remain. That is the kind of man that will change the world. I guarantee it that if you could weep and pray the way Paul prayed you will be another apostle or another evangelist or another prophet, apostle or teacher that will change this generation. Tears, simple little word but how hard it is to come from some eyes. Tears speak of brokenness; tears speak of contriteness that God loves which the Spirit of God can flow through. And that's the kind of passion that Paul has for those he ministered to. Now Paul knew the importance of this in his own life, so that when he trains his own disciples after him, what would he look for? The passion and the tears. That is why to his main spiritual son, he makes this statement in II Timothy 1: 4 As I remember your tears, I long night and day to see you, that I may be filled with joy. We read about all the others qualifications of a minister that Paul gave to Timothy. But don't forget this: Timothy was also man of passion and tears. That was the kind of spirit that Paul imparted upon Timothy. That makes Timothy as successful as the apostle Paul. I am not sure whether Timothy had moved into that same degree of passion as the apostle Paul. But only those who do can reach that same level will have the type of ministry that Paul had.

Right now if you understand this truth, you will see how far your ministry, your talent, your business can go. As far as God is concerned, it will depend on the largeness of your heart. Not on the largeness of your head. It depends on how large your heart is to contain the world. To be realistic this kind of passion doesn't just come. It is not just something you just make yourself to do it. It comes by meditating upon God's love. It doesn't come by just thinking about sad incidences. It comes only by meditating upon God's love. God's love for the world; Jesus' love for us and Jesus' love for the world. And you get caught up in that love and you began to love in the same capacity that He does. And as you yield yourself to that passion one day, it becomes permanently yours. And your life, your ministry, your business, your character is changed. Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.

Depths of Self-Sacrifice

The first quality is having that understanding that burden, the sorrow, the grief of those souls that that we are reaching out to and that will lead us into the second area.

The second is found also in the book of Romans 9 and he says an astounding statement in verse 3, verse 2 is the first point verse 3 is the second point. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen by race. He says that if he could he would go to hell so that they could go to heaven. Think about his love.

There is another man who says things like that in the Old Testament. Turn to the book of Exodus. Moses was confronted with a situation where God's wrath was upon His people. Exodus 32:10 Now therefore let me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; but of you I will make a great nation. But Moses besought the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does Thy wrath burn hot

against Thy people. Then when Moses came down to his people although in verse 19 his anger was against the people because they have made God angry and in verse 21 And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought a great sin upon them?” Then after all the necessary things have been done, in verse 31 look at Moses praying. And here is where the man of great passion stands out. Listen carefully to these words. The great people in the bible and in history are great because of their passion not because of their ability or their talent. God will supply the gifting and abilities but you have to supply that passion.

Exodus 32:31 So Moses returned to the Lord and said, ”Alas, this people have sinned a great sin; they have made for themselves gods of gold. But now, if thou will forgive their sin – and if not, (here is where he sounds exactly like the apostle Paul) blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book, which thou hast written. Of course, God would not do it. But look at what Moses is asking. He is saying, “O God if you don’t forgive these people, then let me die with them.” This is a man of passion. Although Moses and the apostle Paul is separated by nearly two thousand years but there is still one thing that stands out common in their life. Moses was great because of his passion. Paul was great because of his passion. Although two thousand years stand between our time and the time of Jesus of Nazareth and the apostle Paul, if you have that same passion there will be a similar greatness of achievement that will come in your life. The second ingredient of a man or woman of passion is the willingness to give your everything including your life for those whom you want to win for God. When you look at all these things, you just give me one thousand people who have this love and I will change the world. But it’s hard to find one thousand people with this kind of passion. We all have some passion to a certain extend but we need this kind of great passion to change the world.

There was another man who probably lived only a few hundred years ago. He is known as John Knox and John Knox said to the Lord, “O God give me Scotland or let me die.” And Mary the queen of Scot said, “I fear the prayers of John Knox more than the entire army of England.” Because when John Knox prays, he was prepared to back his prayer with his life. When you pray and you are not willing to back your prayer with your life, your goods, your substance and your everything, your prayer lacks passion. When you pray for something, you must be willing to back it up with everything. That’s the kind of prayer that changes the world. Compared with that kind of selfless prayers, most of our prayers are mere speaking. I mean we pray with half our heart and we are willing only to back it up as far as it doesn’t inconvenient us. When we pray for souls alone and there is no personal sacrifice, what kind of Christianity are we advocating? Where is the love that Jesus has for us? Look and behold the Master the Lord Jesus Christ. Look at that kind of love that He gave us. He held back nothing. And those who really know Him hold back nothing. And we need to look at the origin of Christianity and understand that a lot of what we see around is not pure Christianity. The kind of Christianity and the quality of Christianity that came forth from the heart of Jesus has been one that is born in passion, lived in passion, died in passion. That’s the kind of Christianity that changed their generation within one hundred years. And its important for us to have that kind of passion so that when we pray we are willing to back it up. Otherwise, we are praying no differently than the same people who lived in Jesus time called the Pharisees and the Sadducees. They do not back their prayers with their lives. Question to us is, “Will you be a person of passion to the Lord Jesus Christ?”

Depths of Unconditional Love

Now the third point is found in Romans 8. We find the first point in Romans 9 verse 2. We find the second point in verse 3. But the third point is derived as a foundation before Romans 9. Romans 9 came forth as Paul was writing about something. He started in Romans chapter one and two about the gospel, salvation, redemption and how Jesus had died for all our sins in chapter five in chapter six in chapter seven. Then when Paul in chapter eight talks about the love of God, that's point three. He talks about the love of God in verse 31 right to the end of Romans 8, which is the foundation behind chapter 9.

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also give all things with Him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For Thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When Paul was talking about Jesus' love, he couldn't help it and say, "O my brethren the Jews." The third point is unconditional everlasting love. That is what builds passion for souls. This is why I don't understand Christians who say that they get hurt and they can never forgive. I can only say that they have not known Jesus' love. The One who died on the cross was betrayed, spat at, punched, whipped, mocked, jeered right up to the cross. And while He was on the cross He said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they have done." How can we say that we know Jesus and have unforgiveness in our heart? We can only conclude that He saved you but you don't know Him. Everyone who knows Jesus will love like Jesus loves. Just like the old song says "How can you refuse Him now? Do you know Him? Do you really know the One who says, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do"?"

The third point is based, founded, built upon the unconditional everlasting love of God. That's the kind of love that will give you "stickability" in your life for people; you will never give up in them. If we could have ten missionaries sent from this church with this same spirit of passion, you can send them to the ten hardest countries in the world, I guarantee you those ten nations would be changed. What God is looking for are a people of passion, people who will love the way that God loves. God's heart is grieved because many Christians don't love the way God loves. We say we love God; we say we know God; we say we know the bible from Genesis to Revelation, but Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You know the scriptures but you don't come to Me." We only know it in our head but we don't know it in our heart. Because the greatest is love and God wants to build in our time today a people of passion. That's the unconditional love that God wants to establish upon our lives.

So, the third point is to keep your eyes focused on God. When Paul talks about God's love in Romans 8, as he focuses on it he suddenly felt the love coming out of his heart

for his own Hebrew people stronger than any ever before. If you want your love to increase for those whom you minister to look at God's love and let it fill your life. When you have your Romans 8 then you can have your Romans 9. That's what brought Romans 9, Romans 8. Paul never intended to write Romans 9. It was out of the topic. Every bible scholar will tell you that Romans 9 was a side topic. But it's because of Romans 8 that it burst out from the scene in his heart. Paul' heart was aching in love for his people.