

Join us
in October
for meetings
with
**Joe & Joyce
McCroskey**

**October 23,24
& 27th**

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**FORTRESS OF
JOY CHURCH**

Sowing for Love

A while back I went to our church youth group and delivered a message to them the Lord gave me. After I was done teaching them I began to pray for them and the gifts of the Spirit were in operation. The Holy Spirit revealed to me that two young people did not feel loved, I prayed for them. After the meeting was ended the Lord further expounded on the subject of love. He told me this: if you enter a room full of people and you make "them" the most important people in the room you will attract love. Everyone wants to be loved, but how many folks are willing to love?

Philippians 2:3 Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves.

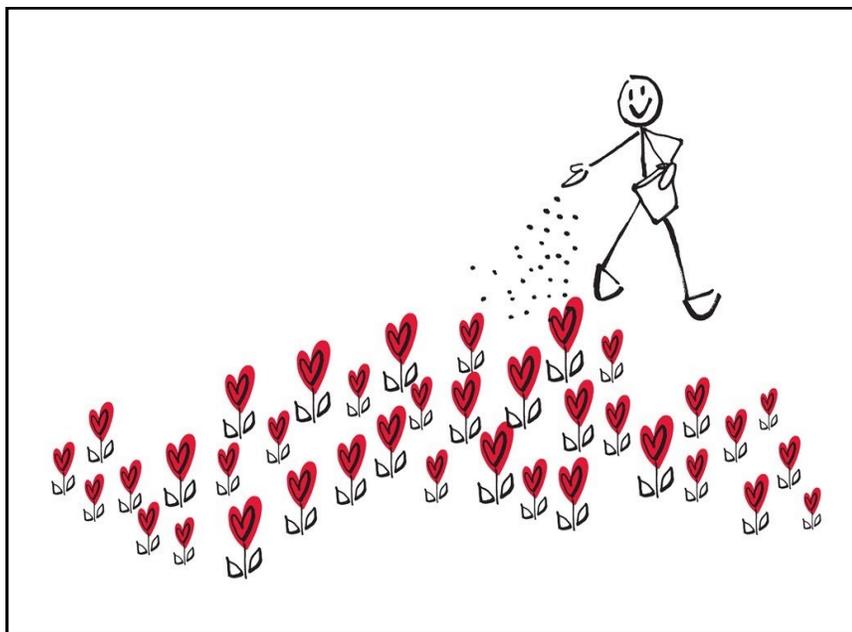
If you want to be loved, then love those people that you're around all the time. This is covered by the law of sowing and reaping, a lot of people want to reap but they are unwilling to sow. You can always identify these folks, they are those who grumble and complain about nearly everything. One of the fruits of a person who loves is contentment, loving others is its own reward.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have left death and come over into life; we know it because we love our brothers and sisters. Whoever does not love is still under the power of death.

After we are born-again we will put off the old man that thrived on hatred, the Holy Spirit empowers us to make such a transition. If we resist our new nature that comes from the Holy Ghost we put our salvation up for debate! We cannot continue as the same person after receiving Jesus, perhaps our salvation was in word only! The entire reason for asking Jesus into our lives is to separate ourselves from the devil and his hatred for God and people. Love is the evidence that we have passed from death to life, satan is the Lord of death, Jesus is the Lord of eternal life!

1 John 3:15 All who hate others are murderers, and you know that murderers have not got eternal life in them.

Realistically love does not manifest instantly in a born-again Christian. If the new believer will make time for his new Lord, Jesus will begin to supernaturally influence him. The desire to hate begins to wane because the devil has no place, no position from which to feed the demon of hatred. Now, love begins to envelop us, a love that is beyond man's natural ability. The God kind of love is an empowerment that if accepted is very difficult to resist. God used His love to break through our shell of hatred and resistance. Love is very hard to resist, you would have to get help from the devil in order to oppose it.



The Love of God

God had to define what love is because it cannot be based on a feeling.

The natural human kind of love is a selfish kind of love, it is possessive by nature. Some folks live and grow in a home where there is no resemblance of love. Others live in homes that have varying degrees of love. No matter how you were raised you will need to learn the God kind of love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love endures with patience and is kind, it is not jealous. Love is not rude or arrogant. It is not self-seeking, not easily angered, does not carry a grudge. Does not celebrate injustice, loves the truth. Love believes all things and always looks for the best in everyone.

God had to define what love is because it cannot be based on a feeling. We must practice love whether

we feel like it or not, it is not a natural born trait in any man. Love is the fundamental respect we have for our fellow man regardless of how we "feel". Jesus loves all sinners but He still came to die for us, He knew we were powerless to help ourselves. God commands us to love all men and He knows we cannot obey Him because our nature has been affected by demonic powers.

Romans 5:5 The love of God is poured out into our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is a gift given to us at the new birth.

All born-again Christians have the love of God abiding within them. We can let it flow out or we can suppress it, either way we will reap what we sow.

Christians who want to please their Savior will use every gift God gives them to bring Him glory. God will never tell us to do something we are not able to perform, He would be unjust to leave us powerless.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

So, now do we have eleven commandments? No, we do not! God gave Moses the ten commandments, whoever kept them would walk in love. The ten commandments are far more than a bunch of dos and don'ts, they are an occasion to love one another. So, what Jesus is saying here is this: if you love one another you will keep or fulfill all ten of the commandments.

Galatians 5:6 In Christ neither circumcision or uncircumcision availeth anything; but faith which works by love.

Faith is believing God and then speaking what God says. Anybody could capitalize on this principle, even sinners and those seeking revenge. But if faith isn't founded in love it won't work, thank God.

Love is the desire to benefit others, at the expense of self. Selfishness is the desire to benefit self at the expense of others.

LOVE DEFINED

*...n't have ... nothing at
... I give eve ... ing I have to pro
... And suppose - I give my body to be
... burned. If I don't have love, I get nothing
... at all. Love is patient. Love is kind. It
... does not want what belongs to others. It does
... If ... not ...
... we ... to ... as ...
... is not ...
... track of other people's wrongs. Do
... pry with evil. But it is full
... truth is spoken. It alway
... says truth. It alway
... up. Love never
... has away
... not!*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

Am I in Love?

A born-again Christian has no excuse to be exempted from walking in love. Now remember love is not a feeling, it is a respect for all mankind. When we accepted Jesus as our Savior we were born-again. Our connection with our evil stepfather the devil was severed and we are supernaturally connected to the Lord God. The evil and hate that stemmed from the devil is now cut off and we have a choice of what flows out of us. Many Christians continue in their sinful ways after the new birth because it is a habit to them.

it? Just as evil is the nature of the devil, love is the nature of God. If His nature is not manifest within us, are we truly His child?

Mark 11:26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

If God's love is welcomed in your heart you will be empowered to forgive every wrong men have imposed on

we must initiate the contact. We must be willing to make the first move and fully expect the Lord to meet us where we are. Seems like everyone is waiting for God, truth is, He's waiting for us. Every time I called on the Name of the Lord, He has responded without delay. God loves to have intimacy with His kids, but it seems like His kids don't know that. It's okay to contact the Lord and not need anything. Some believers have this attitude where you don't "bother" God unless you need something.



As we yield to the Lord, His life begins to infill us and we become more like Him.

Mark 11:25 And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought (unforgiveness, hatred, animosity, grudges, resentment, offense) against any, that your Father which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

God will never tell us to do something we can't do, that would make Him an unjust God. Am I in love? Do I have His love working in me or have I rejected

you! If God's love cannot be found in your life, you will wrestle with flesh and blood and the devil will be your cheerleader. Often times Christians struggle to forgive and what they need to do is develop their love walk. Jesus did not agree with all men but He loved all men. God's love is not an option, we cannot have the God kind of life without the God kind of love.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.

All Christians must practice the presence of God,

Galatians 5:6 In Christ neither circumcision or uncircumcision avail anything: but faith which worketh by love.

Our faith will not work without the element of God's love. If faith could work apart from love, the heathen could use their faith to accomplish evil programs. God implemented a law to ensure our faith was used to fulfill His will. Love will do only that which is good to others, are you in the God kind of love? If yes, then your faith will move mountains.

Seems like everyone is waiting for God, truth is, He's waiting for us.

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**Restoring the
supernatural power
of God back
to the local church**

Love, A Way of Life

I was raised in a dysfunctional family, I had no revelation of honor or love. My definition of love was the traditional world kind of love, you love those who love you. Furthermore, you loved those that you needed things from, once you got what you wanted you put them back on the "black" list.

Luke 6:32 If you love them which love you, what thank (benefit) have you? For sinners also do even the same.

God does not expect us to love with just our natural human kind of love because it is inadequate. At the new birth He pours the God kind of love into our hearts. With this kind of love shored up in our spirit we can express love without "feeling" it. When they were driving the nails into the hands and feet of Jesus,

He said "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

I don't believe for one minute that Jesus "felt" love for those men. Nevertheless, He forgave them and they were forgiven. If Jesus would not have forgiven them, the Holy Spirit would not have been able to deliver Him out of hell. If we won't forgive like Jesus forgave, the Holy Ghost won't be able

to keep us out of hell. So, we have no good excuse for loving because God Himself has equipped us to love like He loves. The God kind of life is a way of life for the born-again believer.

