UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE! HANDOUT #2

We must know and believe that God is Love and allow His love to develop in us.

1. **We must believe and know that God is Love, and His love in us is made perfect as we allow it to develop** (1 John 4:8, 16-18).
   A. Perfect in Greek means "developing."
   B. You must keep yourself in God's love. God is Love, and there's no fear in God.
   C. If you have fear, the love of God is not developed in you.
   D. It is a command to the Church to walk in love, to love God and to love one another.
   E. That must be your way of life. The moment you step out of these, you should repent quickly
2. **Before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed that everyone would know the love of the Father like He did** (John 17:20-23).
   A. the Father loves him just like the Father loves Jesus (verse 23).
   B. We are not old sinners saved by grace. No! We are loved by God!
   C. Jesus, our Savior said that, and He was praying when He said that.
   D. Are you determined to agree with Jesus, that the Father loves him just like He loves Jesus.
   E. Develop a high reverence for God's love. Seek to understand the meaning of the word love.
   F. Paul told Timothy to tell those who are rich not to be high-minded but be ready to give. God gives us all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17).
   G. Seek first the kingdom of God, the kingdom of love, and all these things will be added to you (Matthew 6:33)
3. **Satan wants to divert your attention from God's love. He lies about Him and tries to make you curse God and die (Job 2:9).**
   A. All sin came after man's union with satan because of satan's absolute hatred for man and God.
   B. God, who is Love, is good.
   C. God is good because He is Love.
   D. God is extraordinarily patient and disposed to show favors (Psalm 145:8, AMPC; 2 Peter 3:9).
   E. You do not really know God, if you're not loving His family (1 John 4:8).
   F God's love is inside you by the Holy Spirit, and that means you have the ability to love like God (Romans 5:5).
   G. We must make the decision to love like God and to practice loving others.
4. **Love is a decision of the will and must be practiced**.
   A. In the English language, love is used to mean all kinds of love, including feelings.
   B. The working definition of the Greek word for unconditional love, agape, refers to the love of God.

C. God loves you because He decided to. It was a decision. It is covenant love. God gave us His WORD. If love is only on the feeling level, it has no covenant to back it up.

D. If we have known God, then we love the brethren (1 John 4:21).

E. This love does not refer to mental agreement or feelings of love, but a decision.

F. Put God first place in your life and love Him more than anyone or anything else.

G. Since we are born of God, we love. His love is in our hearts. He has given us the ability to obey the command to love God and love other believers.

H. As we practice loving others on purpose, it becomes easier to do as a way of life

5. **God loves you just as much as He loves Jesus. You are not only filled with God's love, but you have also been born of that love**.

A. As Jesus is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:18

B. We have the mind of Christ. The same anointing that led Jesus' mind can lead our minds (1 Corinthians 2:16).

C. Let the mind of Christ be in you. Jesus did not think it was robbery to be equal to God, and we have been put in the same place. You're not taking away from the deity or majesty of God (Philippians 2:5).

D. To be put in this place, we had to be born again in the image of Jesus.

E. We were not just filled with God's love, we are born of that love!

F. Jesus prayed that the Father would reveal to the world that He loved believers as much as He loved Jesus (John 17:23).

G. We were born of the Spirit, born of the WORD, born of the Spirit of love, born of The WORD of love, and re-created into the likeness of Love.

H. You have a born-again spirit that enables you to bear fruit, operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and walk fearlessly in love.

I. Our inner man already has the fruit of the spirit.

J. That fruit must grow and become dominate in our thinking, until it is exhibited in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23).

K. The more you talk about God being Love, confess it with your mouth, and practice it, fear gets flushed out of your heart. Then love, joy, peace, long-suffering or patience, faithfulness, gentleness, and goodness can begin working in your life.

L. Without the love of God, the gifts of the Holy Spirit will not work correctly (1 Corinthians 12:8-11).

M. When you were born again, your spirit man was totally re-created. That's how these things work in you. Your spirit has been born again (1 Corinthians 13:1-8).

N. Love is kind, and so are we. Love does not envy, is not jealous, is not proud or puffed up, and neither are we. Love rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things**.**

O. Love never fails, and neither do we when we walk in love and walk in God's commandments.

6. **When you have faith in God, you have faith in Love**.
   A. God is Love (1 John 4:8).
   B. We are to have faith in God's love for us (1 John 4:16-18).
   C. When our love is developed, we will be bold in times of trouble**.**
   D. There is no fear in love or in us because the love of God makes fear leave. Fear has torment and God does not want us to be in pain. If we are still dealing with fear, we need to continue to develop in love.
   E. Tormenting fear is not a fear that comes in time of danger. This fear is the one that stays on your mind and tries to influence you all the time.
   F. We try to hide from fear and the devil. We are afraid that the devil is going to attack us. We can even be afraid that God will hurt us.
   G. Some people believe that God will use fear and trouble to teach patience. God does not have fear and doesn't use fear to teach us.
   H. We are to fear God by reverencing and honoring Him, not by being afraid He will hurt us.
   I. Have faith in God. Have faith in Love (Mark 11:22).
7. **Exercise your faith in God/Love by believing, speaking and forgiving**.
   A. You speak to the mountain, or trouble, and it must obey you.
   B. You believe and speak when you pray, not when you feel it. The circumstance would have to change before you could feel differently. So believe and say, and then you will see a change.
   C. Forgive so there will be no blockage to your prayers.
   D. Do not hold unforgiveness against anyone; that is disobedience and will block God's BLESSING.
   E. Perhaps the person you are struggling to forgive has already been punished or may have even been born again.
   F. Jesus paid for all sin for all people.
   G. God is doing everything He can to get people into heaven with Him. He's doing everything He can to bless you, work with you and keep you.
   H. If you don't forgive, you're blocking God from blessing you.
   I. Even your prayers are not effective. God's not refusing to help you; you are refusing to obey Him
   J. Renew your mind by talking about the love of God.
   K. If we are going to believe God's love and renew our minds to His love, according to the laws of faith, we need to start talking about His great love.
   L. We need to say: "God loves me! He's commanded me to love, and I'm doing it. I'm going to love, whether I feel like it or not."
8. **You can continue to grow in the knowledge and understanding of God and His love.**
   A. God's love is not a feeling, it is a Person.
   B. We bow to God the Father, to the Person of Love (Ephesians 3:14-19).
   C. There are levels of knowledge that come with time and training. Practice

loving.

D. Be rooted and grounded in love, so you can understand the total dimensions of the love of God

E. Without a root of love, the enemy can steal the love you have (Mark 4:14-15).

F. Ask God to help you walk in love with your spirit and your mind.

G. Pray in the spirit to increase your faith, knowledge and understanding (Jude 20-21).

H. The person who prays in tongues builds up his spirit (1 Corinthians 14:2).

I. The Holy Spirit inside you will reveal to you all the things Jesus has received from the Father (John 16:13-15)

9. **Let the love of God lead you to a higher level of faith.**

A. If you have been born again, the love of God is in you (Romans 5:5).

B. God is Love, and Love is God. He has planned good things for you (1 John 4:8).

C. The love of God is perfect, and it will perfect or develop inside you (1 John 4:15).

D. There should be no poor among you because you have a love covenant with God (Deuteronomy 15:4, NLT).

E. Develop your faith in the love of God to overcome any challenge you face (Mark 11:22).

F. Challenges can bring fear. God's perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

G. If we are going to believe God's love and renew our minds to His love, according to the laws of faith, we need to start talking about His great love.

H. We need to say: "God loves me! He's commanded me to love, and I'm doing it. I'm going to love, whether I feel like it or not."

I. You can continue to grow in the knowledge and understanding of God and His love.

J. God's love is not a feeling, it's a Person.

K. We bow to God the Father, to the Person of Love (Ephesians 3:14-19).

L. There are levels of knowledge that come with time and training. Practice loving.

M. Be rooted and grounded in love, so you can understand the total dimensions of the love of God.

N. Read 1 John every day for two weeks