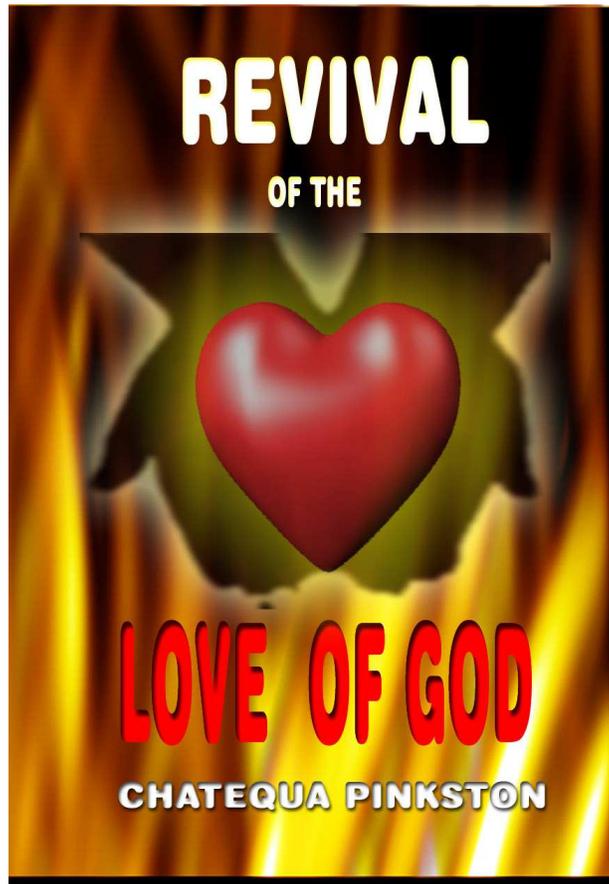


A REVIVAL OF THE LOVE OF GOD



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Introduction

In the recent past months God has told me to declare a “Revival of the Love of God.” It is a word that challenges everyone who hears it to see God in a new, fresh way. As I have shared this word many people have been saved, healed and delivered. This book is a summary of the message that God has allowed me to share.

The love of God has become head knowledge to many people. We learned songs like “Yes Jesus Loves Me” and “Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World” as children. Even people who do not claim to know God have heard about John 3:16. We see signs with the words “God loves you” everywhere. Our most common response to such reminders is “I know that already” and we continue on with life without thinking about it anymore. God wants to give us a fresh revelation of His love. God wants us to begin to have a deeper understanding of His love because it will help us know whom He is and what He wants to do for us. His love will help us to receive all that He has for us.

This book will take us through the various aspects or sides of God’s love. As we experience each stage we are discovering a different aspect of God. Since God is love then every time that we experience love we experience Him (1 John 4:8).

True, pure, unconditional love can only come from God. They are one, and cannot be separated. Just as God never changes, His love for us never changes. It is constant. It is not based on what we do or do not do. His love will never cheat us nor hurt us. It has our best interest at heart.

Maybe some of us have never experienced anything like this love before. Many people have begun to feel such love and drew back because of fear. No human being had taken the time to show unconditional love that knows no limits. Whatever the case, please open your heart wide so that you may experience the height, width and depth of God’s love like never before. Abandon all previous head knowledge and let this word sink deep within your spirit. You will never be the same.

1 John 4:16

*And we have known and believed the
love that God hath to us. God is love;
and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth
in God, and God in him.*

God's Love Revealed Through Salvation

God shows us His love when He brings us to the place of salvation. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, so that we could all be adopted as sons and daughters. It was His great love for a lost and dying world that caused Him to send Jesus. John 3:16 makes this clear.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jesus demonstrated His love toward us by giving His life on the cross. He laid down His life so that we may live. He was the perfect sacrifice. He gave Himself as a sacrifice so that we could have a relationship with God. 1 John 3:1 says that God calls us His children.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

We are not only children of God but we are also His friends according to John 15:13. This means that He waits to reveal the deepest secrets of His heart to us.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus gave His life so that we could live. True love is always looking for an opportunity to give. 1 John 4:9 serves as a reminder of how giving love is.

1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Love caused God to send His son to the earth to die for our sins. Love is what kept Jesus on the cross. Romans 5:8-9 tells us that before we knew God, He sent Jesus to die for us.

Romans 5:8-9 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

The blood of Jesus is a symbol of His love. When Jesus shed His blood He gave His love. There is a direct relationship between blood and the color red. The most famous symbol for love is a red heart. Also notice that many times the word love is written in red when someone wants to make special emphasis or want to be creative. Therefore the cross was an outpouring of love, and this great love cleanses us from our sins.

The love of God brings man to a place of salvation. No man comes to the Father unless the Son draws him and no man comes to the Son unless the Father draws him. Jeremiah 31:3 tells us that God has always loved us and has drawn us to Himself with loving kindness. We are drawn to God by His love. He has been drawing us to Himself since the day that we were born.

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee.

If you have not ever experienced God's love through salvation then ask God to give you this experience. He is right there inside of you. All you need to do is to acknowledge Him and His free gift of salvation. He will cleanse you and adopt you into the family. It is that easy. Welcome into the family!

God's Love Brings Us Into A Deeper Relationship

After salvation we must grow closer to God. He wants us to know Him and He wants to know us. We have to spend time with God so that our relationship with Him can grow closer. As we do, He will reveal His character, which is primarily love, and heart to us.

The Bible compares our relationship with God in different ways. Sometimes we are called His children who He carefully watch over and protect. At other times we are called His friends who He tells what is about to happen. We are also called the bride of Christ who is married to her husband, Christ. In all cases, God desires to build a love relationship with His creation.

The Song of Solomon is a picture of the relationship that God wants to have with us as His bride. It is a book of love and romance. It shows us the close relationship that we can have with God because He loves us and in return we love Him. In many sections the book is a dialogue between a young wife and her beloved husband. We are the bride and Christ is the groom.

For this chapter, let us focus on Song of Solomon chapter 2. In verses 3-4, God brings us to a banqueting table that is set with every spiritual blessing. The food and drink are sweet. They are life-giving substances. He wants to feed us at His table in the presence of our enemies. As we sit there His wings are wrapped around us and we are hid in Him. He places a banner of love, which is probably painted by the blood of Jesus. No one and nothing can come near us at this place. We are safe to enjoy all of that He has laid before us as we rest in His loving presence.

Song of Solomon 2:3-4 As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

Jesus has never stopped inviting us to the banqueting table where His love abides. He makes a call for us to eat freely in Isaiah 55:1-2. Another invitation is given in Luke 14 when the servant is sent out to gather guests for the great feast. Jesus knocks and asks men to open their heart in Revelations 3:20. If we respond to this call He promises to sit with us and to shed His love upon us as we feast upon His goodness.

In Song of Solomon 2:10-13, we learn that God wants to take to new levels in Him. In these verses God, the lover of our souls makes to an appeal, to come away with Him. He wants to take us to new places in His presence. He wants to spend time with us. As we answer His call He will turn our lives into springtime. We will be able to sing with the birds. Everything that has died in our lives due to the bitterness of situations will bud

with new life. We will be fruitful gardens for our Lord and our praise and prayers will be a sweet smelling fragrance to Him.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13 My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. 11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; 12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; 13 The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Verse 14 is the response that we should have to His love. We should want to see Him and to hear his voice. He is hidden within us waiting for us to find a secret place where He can meet us and whisper sweet words in our ears. If we seek Him then we will find Him. We will see His face and will hear His tender, gentle voice.

Song of Solomon 2:14 O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.

As we enter into His presence we see Him and are changed into His image. He fills us with everything that He is, including His love. We become love, as God is love.

Faith Works by Love

The cry of most Believers is for more faith. We know that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). We also know that faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). We have learned that it takes faith to move mountains in our life. Therefore, we spend hours praying, fasting, reading and listening in hope that we can get enough faith to receive what we need from God.

Let us look at a new key to walking in faith. The key is receiving God's love for us. The faith we need comes from realizing how much the Father loves us. It is saying that since God loves us then He will make provision, bring healing and whatever else we need. Faith becomes resting in His abundant love.

Galatians 5:6 tells us that faith works by love. It starts by telling us that circumcision, a work of the flesh, means nothing when it comes to being righteous. Faith gets God's attention. This faith comes from realizing how much that God loves us. When we understand that our Heavenly Father loves us then believing Him becomes easier. Our efforts are no longer spent in trying to work up faith but in knowing that since our Father loves us then He will only give us the best. Therefore all of our needs are met -- spiritually and naturally.

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Look at the mind of a child for an example of faith working by love. A child never worries about food and shelter because they know that their parents love them and has their best interest in mind. They trust their parents to take care of everything. Trust comes from knowing that someone loves us and will not hurt us. God loves us and will not hurt us therefore we can trust Him.

Romans 5:5 tells us that God has shed His love in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. Therefore, we can have faith in Him. Faith and hope are closely related. We can safely and confidently hope in God because He loves us. His love will not keep us waiting forever without answering our heart's cry.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Ephesians 3:20 is often quoted by Christians. We say that God will do beyond what we could have ever think of or imagine. Some would also say that it takes great faith in order to access such power.

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

The verses prior to verse 20 give us keys to accessing the power that is within us. It is this power that releases the provision, deliverance, healings and miracles we desire. Let us take closer look at verses 17-19.

*Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.*

Notice that the verses prior to verse 20 Paul discusses knowing the love of Christ. In verse 17 we learn that Christ dwells in our hearts by faith and that we should be rooted and grounded in love.

Verse 18 tells us that we can experience the width, depths and heights of God's love. This type of love opens up as we fellowship with God and His people. Finally, in verse 19 we learn that this love cannot be attained through human knowledge. It comes as we open ourselves up to the spirit of God. After we receive the fullness of God's love then we are filled with the fullness of Him.

The key to walking in the exceeding abundant is to realize how much God loves us. The exceeding abundant includes every natural and spiritual blessing from provision and healing to peace and joy (Jeremiah 33:6). Let God reveal every aspect of His great love toward us, and may we receive it freely. As we receive His love let us trust Him more and more.

Let us look at one more passage about faith working by love. The opposite of faith is fear. Therefore, if we are walking in faith then fear cannot abide. 1 John 4:18 tells us that perfect love casts out or drives out all fear.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Love removes all fear and therefore makes room for faith. The word "perfect" means complete, lacking nothing. This means that as we are completely filled with God's love we lose all fear and are filled with faith. Love makes faith work.

What Would Love Not Do

God's love for us is so great that He would do anything for us. He will move heaven and earth on our behalf just because He loves us and wants the very best for us. In Revelation 3:7-8, God promises to open and close doors on our behalf. He said that we would be the head and not the tail, above and not beneath, and blessed coming and going (Deuteronomy 28:1-14). He has given His angels charge over us. God has made all of these promises out of His love for us.

Isaiah 43:4 tells us how precious that we are in His sight and how much that He loves us. His love looks past our current situation and problem areas, and calls us honorable. God never sees us as we now, but He sees us as His finished complete work. God's love will also cause Him to move heaven and earth on our behalf. He will even cause the wicked to earn riches and then make them give the earnings to us (Proverbs 13:22).

Isaiah 43:4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

This love keeps us strong during times of trial and testing. It also makes us to be more than conquerors. We can rest in the assurance that nothing can separate us from it. God will not let it happen. He has hid us in the palm of His hand where no enemy can reach us. The writer Paul explains the power of the love of Christ in Romans 8:35-39.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's love for us will cause Him to help us to overcome whatever may come against us. We can rest in the assurance that He will help us through the obstacles of life no matter how difficult they may seem. The God who loves us will never leave nor forsake us even though it may mean moving heaven and earth. Nothing will keep Him away from us.

Moved With Compassion

Compassion and love are similar. Compassion is being pressed or moved to do something because of love. Love allows one to feel what someone else is feeling whether good or bad. Compassion is love in action.

Jesus was often moved by compassion while ministering to the multitudes. This compassion and love caused Him to feel what they felt, and therefore did something about it. Jesus' compassion led Him to do miracles for the people. He healed them, He fed them, and He taught them because He loved them with a love so great that He responded to their needs.

We see how Jesus was moved with compassion in the below verses. In Matthew 14:14, Jesus was moved with compassion to heal the sick. He felt their pain and suffering, and did something to bring relief. Jesus will heal our sickness because He loves us.

Matthew 14:14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

In Matthew 15:32, the multitudes were hungry because they spent days listening to Jesus teaching them. He felt their hunger and decided to do something about it. His love for them caused Him to do a miracle for them. Jesus is still doing miracles today.

Matthew 15:32 Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

Jesus provided sight for the blind because He had compassion for them in Matthew 20:34. He gave them spiritual and physical sight. His love wants us to have clear vision both in the spirit and in the natural man.

Matthew 20:34 So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

Jesus taught the people because He loved them in Mark 6:34. The people were lost and hurting as a result of not being taught. Jesus felt the longing of their hearts for answers about life, and therefore taught them. He will answer our deepest questions.

Mark 6:34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was

moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

His love and compassion towards us has not changed. He is touched and moved by our pain and needs. Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus is a High Priest who feels our pain -- physical, emotional and spiritual. He understands how we feel.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

He still waits to work miracles, both great and small, on our behalf.

A Fresh Look at Love

1 Corinthians 13 is known as the love chapter. Let's take another look at it from the angle of God's love toward us. If we replace the word "charity" with the phrase "the love of God" fresh understanding of the power of His love will come.

The first three verses of the chapter serve as an introduction. They link chapter 12, which talked about spiritual gifts, to the discussion on love that Paul is about to give. These verses say that the gifts are not valuable without the love of God. Later we will learn that God's love releases the spiritual gifts in our life.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

In verses 4-6, we see the characteristics of charity or the love of God. His love causes Him to be patient and kind with us even when we have messed up. God wants the very best for us. In verses 5-6, we see how God deals with our sins and how He sees us now. He gave His everything when He gave his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. Even when we do make mistakes His love causes Him not to be angry. The last part of verse 5 and all of verse 6 tells us that God does not see us as sinners but as sons and daughters. This is the truth - we are clean and we are one with Him, never to be separated. When God looks through His eyes of love He sees the real us that is whole.

1 Corinthians 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Verses 7 and 8 tell us that the love of God will reach to the deepest part of us and bring deliverance and healing. Jesus bore all things on the cross, a demonstration of love (Is. 53). God believes in and hopes for the best for us. God always has good thoughts toward us. He never grows tired of our mistakes and blunders as we are trying to get this walk with Him right. We may fall a few times, but God is always there to pick us up.

1 Corinthians 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all

things, endureth all things.

Verse 8 tells us that His love has no end and can never fail. Spiritual gifts and human knowledge is not always perfect because it has to be processed by man before it is delivered, but God's love is pure.

1 Corinthians 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

The next part of the chapter talks about how God wants us to understand who we are in Him. This is all a part of Him wanting the very best for us. God's love is perfect so when we receive it then we will walk in the fullness of knowledge and understanding. Verse 9 is an introduction to this section letting us know that we can walk in partial knowledge and understanding. Verse 10 says that when perfect love comes then we will be able to operate in the fullness of God's gifts. The love of God is the key to ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit. Verse 11 is a bridge that takes us from being babes to maturity. Verse 12 lets us know that when we reach the fullness of God's love we will see clearly and know who we are in Christ. We cannot walk in everything that God has for us until we receive His love.

*1 Corinthians 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.
10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.
11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

The love of God leads us into everything that we need in life. Chapter 4 of this book discussed how faith is linked to the love of God. Verse 13 confirms it. Faith and hope are two foundations on which we build our Christian walk. Faith made Abraham a friend of God. Jesus brought us hope through eternal life and a personal relationship with the Father. God's love for mankind was the reason why He blessed Abraham and was the reason why He sent Jesus to the earth.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Spreading the Revival of Love

After we are filled with a fresh revelation of God's love we must pass it along to others. We cannot be selfish with this knowledge. A container is filled so that its contents can be poured into another container. God has filled us with His love so that we can share it with someone who needs it. Everyone needs His love whether or not they have been Christians for years or if they do not know God.

Jesus told us to pass His love along in John 13:34 and in John 15:12. He gave us good examples of love through His miracles, death and resurrection. He now wants us to be examples to others. His love is to be shared.

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

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Jesus also said, in John 13:35, that the world would recognize us as His disciples by our love for one another. The love of God should be the trademark for everyone who calls themselves Christians. When people see us they should see love.

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Love will bind us together as the body of Christ. Colossians 3:12-14 is almost like an echo of 1 Corinthians 13. It gives a list of ways that we should behave toward one another: kind, humble, meek, longsuffering, forbearing and forgiving. All of these are how God treats us. Verse 14 then tells us to put on love above all else. If we walk in love then we will automatically be all of those attributes listed in verses 12 and 13.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

The "bond of perfectness" in Colossians 3:14 is important when it comes to spreading this revival of love. We as the body of Christ must be united before a real move of God

can take place. The early church had so much love and unity that the world wanted to join them. Love for one another will cause us to be truly united to the point that we will weep and rejoice with each other. We will be singly minded as our hearts will want to share God's love with one another and the world.

Conclusion

I pray that God's love has sparked a new fire in your heart as you read this book. May you know Him and His love for you in a new way. As you know and experience His love may you receive healing, deliverance, provision and whatever else that your heart desires. He waits to give these things to you. You are His child, His friend, His bride, and the apple of His eye, never to be separated from Him. May you rest in Him.

I also pray that you will pass His love along to those who are around you. As you spread it around, I pray that lives would be changed, and that this revival would never end. The truth is that it cannot end because love never ends. So may the whole world know the love of God as this fire spreads by the wind of the Holy Spirit.