**52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom**

**Day 3 – May 16, 2013**

**Building on the Strong Foundation of God’s Love**

**Please read Psalm 19:7-14**. This is our passage of Psalms for our first week. We are working with God to build a second wall of wisdom, with His Word. We saw yesterday that **we have built walls of idolatry and false worship** that we have picked up from our traditions. Before we can effectively partner with God to build this second wall, we need to look at **other walls we have built**, and begin the process of tearing them down.

**Please read Deuteronomy 7: 1-2**

Thom Gardener wrote a book entitled ***"The Wounded Heart,*** in which heexplains that the enemies Israel would face going in to the Promised Land are the same emotional enemies we all have that negatively influence us. He wrote, "*As Israel was about to cross into the inheritance of God, Moses warned them that they would encounter seven nations that were* ***"greater and stronger"*** *than they. These influences would be obstacles to the enjoyment of the kind of abundance and intimacy (His Love and your love) with God that He intended.* ***The following lists some of the negative emotions these ungodly nations suggest."***

Hittites: **Fear**

Girgashites: **Rejection**

Amorites: **Worthlessness**

Canaanites: **Shame**

Perizzites: **Insecurity**

Hivites: **Defilement**

Jebusites: **Hopelessness**

The names of each of these **pagan nations suggest a strong influence that inhabited the land of grace and abundance into which God was bringing His people Israel**. The negative emotional influences that these names suggest still inhabit the abundant life that you and I are promised. Jesus said, “**I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”** (John 10:10) But the beginning of that scripture says, **“the enemy comes to kill, steal and destroy”.** We are always in a battle with the enemy because he does not want to see us in complete covenant relationship with our Father God. Father God is filled with love that wants the best for us, and the enemy comes to rob and defile us so we cannot have a healthy functional love relationship with God and others.

**Psalms 119:1-2** says this, *“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of The Lord! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!”*We must be in a healthy functional love relationship with Father God so through the Lord Jesus we can be cleansed and we can walk the Word out as epistles and not just talk and preach about it. This is where we become a testimony before those who do not know His love. We will be the ones who will seek to love Him with all our heart, soul, and strength.

**Please read Mark 12: 28-34** to see the commandments that Jesus said were the most important commandments for all for us. **There is no other greater commandment** than to*“love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, with ALL your soul, with ALL your mind and with ALL your strength*”. *“The second is this; you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Verse 33, says that loving God and others is much more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices they gave to God. We don’t offer sacrifices anymore, but we do works for God; so to put it in our times, **loving God is much more important than doing good things for Him.**

The Samaritan woman did not know this love. We can see that her testimony was not of God’s love, but one who was seeking love from her husbands. They were not even all her husbands, which was a perverted love of her heart.

This is the **foundation** of our teaching for the next 52 Days. **We will build the Wall with the Word of God that will change and heal our hearts to love Him completely.** We will destroy the foundations of the enemy, who came to steal, kill and destroy our lives and the lives of our children.

**Let’s look at Deuteronomy 7:6-10**

*“For You are a holy people to the Lord your God;* ***The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure*** *above all the people of the face of the earth.*

*The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;*

*but* ***because The Lord loves you****, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, The Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

*Therefore* ***know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God*** *who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations* ***with those who love Him and keep His commandments;***

*And He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.”*

**This message is for us today**, God loves us so much that He is determined to show us His love and keep His oath. We today have the Lord Jesus Christ who has brought us out of the bondage of this world and the hands of the enemy. Father God gave us His only Son who would love us and then die for us, so we could come close to His heart. He gave us the Holy Spirit that would help us keep God’s commandments with a heart that is continually being changed by the Word of God, which is Christ Jesus. (John 1:1)

The Love of God is amazing, God is love. Not just loving, but love. (I John 4:7-8) **Love is not a description of God; it is the essence of God**. His quality of love can be understood as the unselfish giving of oneself for the highest good of another. It is not a behavior, prompted by feelings, or mere romanticism for a moment, but a steadfast choice to be love-centered/Christ centered. Divine love is God's nature.

What other nature is working in us that causes us to be hostile against God and others? What is influencing us to act out with fear, insecurity, worthlessness, hopelessness, defilement, shame and rejection?

When we are influenced by these strong emotions, often caused by the iniquities of our past, we cannot appreciate God’s perfect love or allow this love to be produced in us to cause us to grow. When we get to know the love of God we will know His divine love. Then we can love Him out of a heart that has not been defiled, but that has been delivered, healed and cleansed by the Holy Spirit.

**Listen to John 14:15-16** *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray to the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.”*

I remember reading this years ago and I felt defeated because I loved Him, but I was still struggling with these hard areas on my heart. But I saw that I could have a functional loving relationship with Father God because the Lord Jesus died and rose again, and He sent me a Helper, the Holy Spirit. **Now we can say because of this love, we can keep God’s commandments with the help of the Holy Spirit.**

Let’s close with **Deuteronomy 7:11 “***Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them.***”**

**The word *observe*** means to be carefully attentive and notice; to conform one's action or practice to a law, rite, or condition; to comply with; to watch carefully especially with attention to details or behavior for the purpose of arriving at a judgment.

We can keep God’s law, His commandments only based on our relationship with Him, by **allowing the Word to go deep in our hearts.** When wedo this, our wounded hearts will be transformed and completely changed, so that we can love God and others with all of our heart!

**DIGGING DEEPER**

**Please read the following scriptures of God’s love and His correction:**

Hebrews 12:5-13

Psalm 89:30-34

Jeremiah 10:24

Proverbs 3:12

Revelation 3:19

How is God’s love different than the love you know from the people in your life?

Read **Psalm 19:7-14** again. Look at how God’s commandments, etc. are described and how they help us. How does this help you in loving Him and keeping His commandments?

**How are you coming on your memory verse Psalm 19:7?**