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Walking In Love And Forgiveness **Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

When we are learning to walk in love and forgiveness, in order to take on the image of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must first learn how to love and forgive. We must also realize that our adversary wants to trip us up, therefore, we must learn how to recognize his devices and not be ignorant of them.

2 Cor 2:10-11 *"To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; 11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." KJV*

Don't give Satan anything to work with, unforgiveness opens the door.

1 John 2:10-11 *"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." KJV*

Unforgiveness will cause us to stumble and walk in darkness. This is a life style not just an occasional thing. Love is something that is developed in us. John was known as the apostle of love. His message was simple, he just spoke on loving one another. Love was and is the image of Jesus, because God is love.

"Walking in love today", a reminder of our daily walk. As Christians this should be our daily pursuit

Col 3:14 *"And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony]." AMP*

1 Cor 14:1 *"Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy." KJV*

Somewhere in our lives and development as Christians, love must become our aim. Love is an act of our will, it is a choice, we put love on. We all have opportunity to walk in love.

Example given of Smith Wigglesworth and his wife regarding the love and anointing they shared. They chose to walk in love.

We all have this same choice in our daily lives.

Rom 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." KJV*

The love of God is in our hearts, not our heads or our emotions. Many times when we are given a chance to walk in love, we use our heads or emotions and not our hearts. God's love is on the inside of us, we may not completely understand how it works or how to release it, but we must learn how in order not to react the wrong way. We cannot just react to our emotions, saying that "this is the way we are" indicating that we have not renewed our minds to what the Word says about the love walk.

Mark 11:23-25 *"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. 25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."* KJV

Hanging on to unforgiveness and resentment will cause our prayers not to be answered. We cannot be ignorant to Satan's devices. He has caused many to fail and fall without them understanding what has happened to them. Sometimes we say that we have forgiven, but in our hearts we haven't, especially if we are remembering something that happened years before. There must be true forgiveness.

1 John 2:6 *"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."* KJV

If we say we are Christians, we need to be walking like Jesus walked. This is a learned process, we start as babes then we begin to grow and develop and walk in love as Jesus walked. This love walk was a new commandment which was given in John 13.

When we get out of love, we fall and stumble into the traps laid before us by the enemy because of the darkness. We must stay in love in order to stay in the light.

An example was given of a lady who thought she hated her mother-in-law because of her interference over the years. She also had a young daughter who was plagued with seizures, but after being ministered to by a visiting evangelist in her home and after praying with him, realized that she didn't hate her mother-in-law, because in her heart she had a different feeling for her. The enemy tried to continue harassing the child, but she had learned how to stop him with her words and after awhile the seizures stopped and the child was completely healed.

Genesis 13 tells us how Abraham made a choice of love with his nephew, Lot, regarding the division of land between them and the choice that Lot made in taking the best for himself. Abraham chose to give him what he requested and in turn God showed Abraham what would be his in the future. Love prevailed and the doors were kept open.

1 Cor 13:8 *"Love never fails "*AMP

1 John 4:8,16 *"8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 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."* KJV

Read the gospels and see love in action in Jesus life.

Ephesians chapter 1 says we are rooted and grounded in Love.

Love is a verb and has corresponding actions. Love is shed abroad in our hearts and not our heads. Love causes us to have right standing with God.

Rom 12:1-2 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* KJV

Phil 1:9-11 *"And this I pray: that your love may abound yet more and more and extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight [that your love may display itself in greater depth of*

acquaintance and more comprehensive discernment], 10 So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value [recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences], and that you may be untainted and pure and unerring and blameless [so that with hearts sincere and certain and unsullied, you may approach] the day of Christ [not stumbling nor causing others to stumble]. 11 May you abound in and be filled with the fruits of righteousness (of right standing with God and right doing) which come through Jesus Christ (the Anointed One), to the honor and praise of God [that His glory may be both manifested and recognized]." AMP

We all the the opportunity to walk in love and forgiveness. It is God's way, Moses understood God's ways that are spoken of in Psalms 103.

Psalm 103 (KJV)

*Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:
3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;
4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;
5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.
6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.
7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.
8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.
9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.
10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.
12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.
14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.
15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.
16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.
17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;
18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.
19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.
20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.
21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.
22 Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.*