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The Love Of God  
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Gods plan is that we have substance, first fruits and increase in our lives financially, having more than enough in all areas. It is God's plan that we have a breaking out of Gods prosperity and blessing in our lives, that there be an overflowing of Gods abundance, we are not just barely getting by.

Pro 3:9-10 "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." KJV

Pro 3:9-10 "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. 10 Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine." NLT

(The love of God will be taught in a short series on love and forgiveness, because of the amount of material to cover, the series will be over a period of time, beginning with the following scriptures using many translations.)

1 Cor 14:1-5 "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. 2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. 4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. 5 I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying." KJV

1 Cor 14:1-5 "Pursue [this] love [with eagerness, make it your goal], yet earnestly desire *and* cultivate the spiritual *gifts* [to be used by believers for the benefit of the church], but especially that you may prophesy [to foretell the future, to speak a new message from God to the people]. 2 For one who speaks in an *unknown* tongue does not speak to people but to God; for no one understands him *or* catches his meaning, but by the Spirit he speaks mysteries [secret truths, hidden things]. 3 But [on the other hand] the one who prophesies speaks to people for edification [to promote their spiritual growth] and [speaks words of] encouragement [to uphold and advise them concerning the matters of God] and [speaks words of] consolation [to compassionately comfort them]. 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church [promotes growth in spiritual wisdom, devotion, holiness, and joy]. 5 Now I wish that all of you spoke in *unknown* tongues, but *even* more [I wish] that you would prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater [and more useful] than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he translates *or* explains [what he says], so that the church may be edified [instructed, improved, strengthened]." AMP

1 Cor 14:1-5 "Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy. 2 For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesymysterious. 3 But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them. 4 A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church. 5 I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened. " NLT

1 Cor 14:1-5 "3 Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does. Give yourselves to the gifts God gives you. Most of all, try to proclaim his truth. If you praise him in the private language of tongues, God understands you but no one else does, for you are sharing intimacies just between you and him. But when you proclaim his truth in everyday speech, you're letting *others* in on the truth so that they can grow and be strong and experience his presence with you. 4-5 The one who prays using a private "prayer language" certainly gets a lot out of it, but proclaiming God's truth to the church in its common language brings the whole church into growth and

strength. I want all of you to develop intimacies with God in prayer, but please don't stop with that. Go on and proclaim his clear truth to others. It's more important that everyone have access to the knowledge and love of God in language everyone understands than that you go off and cultivate God's presence in a mysterious prayer language—unless, of course, there is someone who can interpret what you are saying for the benefit of all."  
MESSAGE

v. 5 - "I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying." KJV

Why would a person desire to prophesy? What is the importance of prophesy? Prophesy edifies, exhorts and comforts. A person that speaks unknown tongues edifies himself, but he that prophesies speaks to the church. When there is tongues with interpretation the church will be edified. Prophecy, tongues and interpretation are the same. Speaking in tongues in church with no interpretation will cause some people to become uncomfortable.

v. 1 - "Pursue [this] love [with eagerness, make it your goal], yet earnestly desire *and* cultivate the spiritual *gifts* [to be used by believers for the benefit of the church], but especially that you may prophesy [to foretell the future, to speak a new message from God to the people].AMP

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Pursuing the God kind of love is not always the most important thing in each of our lives, but our highest goal should be the God kind of love. These different translations magnify the importance of walking in love. We will see in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 the description of the kind of love that we all need, but may feel like it is impossible to attain. The Bible says that love is something we grow in.

An earlier writer who had been healed and filled with the Holy Spirit, coming from a different background of teaching had thought that maybe, Paul was not gifted to walk in love, but because of the revelation that the Holy Spirit gave him he was able to write Corinthians 13 & 14. When we read the gospels we see that Jesus walked in love. Love is stark, demands justice and righteousness and sets boundaries.

There was a story told of Mark Hankins, who shared a story about when he had attended a Hagin camp meeting, Bro Hagin was teaching on love and Bro Hankins was in a special section for pastors only, however, at the close of the meeting, Bro Hagin asked that the pastors having ought in their lives to stand up but because of pride on most and Bro Hankins being the kind of man that he was, immediately he saw the face of the man that he had bad feelings against, the man had gotten upset about something in the church and had left, he began saying things about the church and Bro Hankin. Because of him being upset he took all his money with him. Bro Hankin didn't want to be the only one doing so, but Bro Hagin had just finished teaching out of Mark 11 about having ought against someone and Bro Hagin encouraged the pastors to stand, saying that if they would and deal with it, in 30 to 60 days time, God was going to bless, so Bro Hankin stood up, knowing that people would wonder what was wrong with him, but he humbled himself and made things right. After going back home, he began to hear about what the man had been saying about him to others, his first reaction was to phone him and have it out, but because he had been walking free from the spirit of torment he didn't do it. The Lord reminded him that he was free from the feelings he had regarding the man.

Matt 5:43-45 "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." KJV

How do we forgive? Love always has actions, there must be corresponding actions. Faith without corresponding actions is dead. If we say that we are walking in love, then there must be the corresponding actions that others can see. God will always recompense those walking in love. The kingdom of God works by verse 44 working, for us this is the way that we can know that we are forgiven by our actions of walking in love. Have you ever felt like you were being taken advantage of and being used by others, verse 44 tells us what as believers to do.

v. 44 - " But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" KJV

v. 45 -"That ye may be the \*children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." KJV

\*children may also be son or the mature son, not one that has just come into the body of Christ. We must have a measure of spiritual maturity in our lives in order to implement this principle in our lives, it does not say there will be reconciliation or that everything will work out in this relationship it may in time and it may not, but we can know that we have forgiven when we can pray for the one we have ought against, the one that has hurt us. This is one way we can forgive.

Mark 11:25 "Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him [drop the issue, let it go], so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions *and* wrongdoings [against Him and others]." AMP

The anyone mentioned in this verse means everyone ie: husband, wife, children, family, friends etc.

Continuing the story of Bro Hankin and how he handled the situation in his life, instead of calling the man whom he had ought against, he began to pray for the man, dropped it and let it go. 30 days after this, the man called and ask him to come speak at his church over Sunday, first thought was no, but because he had forgiven him, he told him yes preached two services and after the man had taken up an offering, Bro Hankin received \$50,000. Now which is best, tell the man off or pray and forgive? God always blesses those walking in love.

When reading the following scriptures we see that the Bible does not give any examples of men or women or children walking in love, the good examples of walking in love is seen in Jesus displaying love throughout his life, the examples are found in the gospels. Was he really firm or were people allowed to run over him? How did he respond when people talked about him? Keep this in mind when reading 1 Corinthians 13.

1 Corinthians 13 is found between chapters 12 and 14, chapter 12 teaches about the gifts of the spirit and chapter 14 teaches how to operate in those gifts and the manifestation of them. Paul teaches that the gifts are great and that we need to be seeking and operating in them, but the greatest of them is love. Love, faith and hope will be in heaven, love being the greatest of the three. What we do in front of men; God is looking at our heart, are we doing it to be seen of men or to help men, it is nothing if for the wrong reason.

1 Cor 13:1-3 "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love [for others growing out of God's love for me], then I have become only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal [just an annoying distraction]. 2 And if I have *the gift of* prophecy [and speak a new message from God to the people], and understand all mysteries, and

[possess] all knowledge; and if I have all [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love [reaching out to others], I am nothing. 3 If I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it does me no good at all." AMP

v.1 - If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love [for others growing out of God's love for me], then I have become only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal [just an annoying distraction].

v. 2 - And if I have *the gift of prophecy* [and speak a new message from God to the people], and understand all mysteries, and [possess] all knowledge; and if I have all [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but do not have love [reaching out to others], I am nothing.

v. 3 - If I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it does me no good at all.

Love will flow through us, something that cannot be seen, it comes out and the following characteristics are how love is seen by others.

1 Cor 13:4-8 "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; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 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." KJV

1 Cor 13:4-8 "Love endures long *and* is patient and kind; love never is envious *nor* boils over with jealousy, is not boastful *or* vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. 5 It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) *and* does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights *or* its own way, *for* it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy *or* fretful *or* resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. 6 It does not rejoice at injustice *and* unrighteousness, but rejoices when right *and* truth prevail. 7 Love bears up under anything *and* everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. 8 Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled *and* pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed *and* cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth]." AMP

As we begin to grow up we will put away some of the childish things that we have done and begin to put on love, doing away with selfishness and begin to understand the things of God and His kind of love.

1 Cor 13:8-13 "Love never fails [it never fades nor ends]. But as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for the gift of special knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part [for our knowledge is fragmentary and incomplete]. 10 But when that which is complete *and* perfect comes, that which is incomplete *and* partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now [in this time of imperfection] we see in a mirror dimly [a blurred reflection, a riddle, an enigma], but then [when the time of perfection comes we will see reality] face to face. Now I know in part [just in fragments], but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known [by God]. 13 And now there remain: *faith* [abiding trust in God and His promises], *hope* [confident expectation of eternal salvation], *love* [unselfish love for others growing out of God's love for me], these three [the choicest graces]; but the greatest of these is love." AMP

As we make the transition to heaven there will be no need for prophecies, tongues or knowledge for we will know the divine will of God. Some people will say that these things have been done away with on the Day of Pentecost and are not for today, but that is incorrect they began on the Day of Pentecost.

1 Cor 13:8-13 "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. 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. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." KJV

There is a book by Henry Drummond called the "Greatest Thing In The World Is Love" written many years ago and he explains that love is: patience, love suffering long. Kindness, doesn't envy, generous, humble, not puffed up, courtesy, doesn't seek its own, becoming unselfish, not easily provoked, good temper, taking no account of evil done to it, doesn't keep records, is guileless not devious, no hidden agenda, rejoices in truth and is sincere, this is God's love defused through us and shown to the world. God's love is in us and wants to flow out of us, for the world to see how God loves us they will begin to see these characteristics.

Many times we are basing our seeing and hearing on men and women but this is wrong and we are missing the mark. God is faithful and our focus and patience must be towards God, God rewards along that line, He may do it through people, but if we are looking toward people we will be disappointed. We must base our focus on God, we are going to do whatever, based on what He has told us and not based on what other people have told us. We want to please him.

Sometimes when ministers get together, they have a tendency to exaggerate, wanting to impress others. Love is humble, not prideful nor puffed up, selfishness is one of the biggest problems with relationships.

1 Cor 13:12-13 "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. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." KJV

Closing with a story regarding Bro. Hagin and an experience that he had with a lady minister who had become jealous of her mother-in-law, saying that she hated the lady because of the relationship with her husband, always putting down the lady minister, but as Bro Hagin talked with her, it was discovered that she really didn't hate, just didn't like the way she had been treated. However, in the family there was a small child who was plagued with seizures and it was determined that her healing had not come because of the bitterness that her mother had for her grandmother. After ministering to her, praying about the hatred and forgiveness being bestowed, the lady was set free along with her daughter, and of course the enemy tried unsuccessfully to put the illness back on the child, but her mother stood her ground reminding the enemy that the child was healed. Many years later Bro Hagin visited with the family and the child was now a woman, doing great. The entire story can be read in the book that Bro Hagin has written called "Love; The Way To Victory"

There is a law of love that releases the goodness of God that comes to us. Don't look to men, keep our focus on Jesus. Pursue love make it our quest.