GREAT LOVE IV

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: 1 John 4:18 (KJV)

This little tale may or may not be true that I am about to tell but there once was a handsome young minister who was pastoring a particular church. He was a talented young preacher but he was not married. This same church had some elderly ladies who thought that they just had to find this young man a wife. It just so happened that the piano player was a very beautiful young lady who was available. You might imagine that before long the elderly ladies dreams and prayers were fulfilled as the young minister popped the question to the beautiful pianist. The very helpful ladies wanted to do something special for the couple so they planned to have flowers and a nice devotional book placed in the honeymoon suite. Something happened and the flowers and book were not purchased so the ladies finally settled for just a piece of paper to be placed on the coffee table in the suite that had I John 4:18 printed out “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.” Well even that did not work out so they decided to write on the paper “I John 4:18.” Little did they know that whoever did the writing forgot the “first” in first John so the note read John 4:18 which is “For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband.” I hope perfect love saved that marriage.

There is a great amount of risk involved in love. In order to love someone there is the chance that that person may not love you in return. You are putting your heart on the line. There is the chance that your hopes and dreams may be shattered. What I am saying is there is some apprehension in our attempts to love when we do not involve Christ. The love of God takes the fear away. God’s love doesn’t guarantee that we will never get our heart broken. There are some that are reading this devotion right now who have had your heart broken even after praying and feeling you chose the right person in life and something happened and that person did not love you in the same way. You may have invested most of your life in a child that has become an adult but shows no love toward you after you have loved and shed a multitude of tears for him or her. What do you do now? Do you say I will never love again? NO! Through the power of Christ you will wrap yourself in the perfect love that casteth out fear and love again. You will love that child until one day you look down the road and you see him limping up the road bruised, broken and battered and you will run down that road and throw your arms around him and kiss him on the neck and cry “Welcome Home”!

I am not sure we can but try to imagine the love that Christ invested in us. Even while we were yet sinners Christ loved us and went to the cross for us. I do not know about you but I am sure that I have disappointed and even broke the heart of Jesus as I did not reciprocate the love that he has shown me. Just a simple “Lord, I love you” might help from time to time. He is looking for those things that are actions of love for him. Things like approaching sinners and recommending Him as a savior. It is a fearful thing but “perfect love casteth out fear.” If we let his great love dictate us we will find ourselves loving others much better.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram