GREAT LOVE XIV

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE… GALATIANS 5:22a

In one of his books “Absolute Surrender”, Andrew Murray begins one chapter with these words “Christian work requires love.” He further adds that it is his belief that the baptism of fire is in reality God’s baptism of love upon his followers. I do not think I can argue his point. As Christians we are born out of Christ’s love for us. All things that we do and say should be born out of our love for others.

In the sense that we are speaking, love is a gift from God. In other words we cannot love someone in the sense that God loves us unless we are given the ability from God to do so. Consider the Apostle Paul. He did not like Christians. He was on mission to either kill or imprison them when he met Jesus. After his meeting with Christ he had a devout love for the church and wanted to plant churches all over the known world.

While being a gift from God, love must also be intentional. One must want to love someone. There is a world that is full of people who are lost and dying. We must choose to love them enough to tell them about Jesus and show them his love. Murray tells the story of a lady who was to speak to a large group of women on a Christian topic. As she arrived at the place she was to speak she saw a woman in rags sitting on a curb outside the place she was to speak. The speaker asked the usher who the woman was and was told that she had entered the building several times to come running out each time and sit on her curb. The usher told the speaker that it was nearing her time to speak but she went to the woman on the curb and sat down and began to talk to her. Her hair was uncombed and her clothes were only tattered rags but she talked. The lady on the curb did not feel worthy to be in the same building with the rest of the crowd. She felt unworthy to live. Slowly the love of Jesus began to move from the speaker to the woman on the curb. The usher insisted it was time for the speech. The speaker insisted that the greater work was being done. And so it was. The speech was made inside the building on the stage with the woman from the curb sitting beside the speaker. The speaker had her arm around the tattered woman patting her on the shoulder and letting the love of Jesus have his way.

May we ever let the love of Jesus have his way!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram