FINDING MORE – WEEK THREE

Love

> [Let] love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Romans 12:9

This week for our Finding More in the scriptures, we are digging deeper into what the Bible teaches us about love.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we can easily fall into hypocritical love. We cannot love the way the world loves. Our love has to be real, not pretend, not transactional, only seeking what we can get out of it, and must be much deeper than a passing emotion.

> For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. 1 John 2:16-17

True love isn't just a feeling; it is who God is. When we surrender our lives to Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us, giving us the ability to love the way God loves.

> Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 1 John 4:7-8

John makes it clear…without love, we do not truly know God. And if we don't know Him, we cannot love Him the way He instructed, with all our hearts, minds, and souls.

To fully understand the attributes of God's love, we must look at 1 Corinthians chapter 13. This is where we see the contrast between what love is and what love is not. It acts as a great mirror, helping us assess whether we are truly loving the way God calls us to, or if we are still trying to love the way the world does…with strings, pride, and selfish desires.

A wonderful practice is to place your own name before each attribute in these verses to see how well you are matching up to God's standard. I'll be honest with you; when you read these scriptures with your own name, it gets a little uncomfortable! It's a reality check for all of us, because we each fail in different areas, some more than others.

To help us dive deeper, I have included a chart with each attribute of love alongside a supporting scripture. I encourage you to look up each verse and write out a brief summary of how that truth can help you live out that specific characteristic in your daily life.

#	Love Attributes (1 Cor 13:4-8)	Support Verse	Personal Summary
1	Suffereth long (patient)	*Ephesians 4:2*	
2	Kind	*Ephesians 4:32*	
3	Envieth not	*Galatians 5:26*	
4	Vaunteth not (doesn't boast)	*Proverbs 27:2*	
5	Not puffed up (not arrogant)	*Philippians 2:3*	
6	Doth not behave unseemly (rude)	*1 Peter 2:17*	

7	Seeketh not her own (insist own way)	*Philippians 2:4*	
8	Is not easily provoked	*Ecclesiastes 7:9*	
9	Thinketh no evil (resentful)	*Colossians 3:13*	
10	Rejoiceth not in iniquity (wrongdoing)	*Proverbs 2:14*	
11	Rejoiceth in truth	*2 John 1:4*	
12	Beareth all things	*Galatians 6:2*	
13	Believes all things	*Proverbs 3:5*	.
14	Hopeth all things	*Romans 15:13*	
15	Endureth all things	*2 Timothy 2:10*	
16	Love never faileth (never ends)	*Romans 8:38-39*	

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. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8