

“Love as I have loved you”

I had been fasting and praying about the camp theme for a little while. One day I came home from work and turned on the TV. The channel was on one of those gospel channels, and the program was showing one of those crusades. Specifically the crusade was in England and a stadium of 20,000 people was sold out. There were even 5,000 people in the parking lot, which couldn't get in because tickets were sold out, just waiting for some kind of blessing out there. When I saw this program, I was just in amazement at how many people are hungry for the things of God. I immediately was prompted by the Spirit to pray. I turned the TV off, got on my knees and poured my heart out to God, asking him, “How is it done? How do we, The Church of Jesus Christ, get there?”

I was given a scripture. The Lord usually speaks to me personally that way when I desire something of him, He always leads me to the word. The scripture I was given is John 13:34-35. The spirit of God just came upon me confirming it was from the Lord.

There are a couple of things that stood out concerning these couple verses. The Fact that we are to love one another as Jesus loves us. That thought in itself, is so deep and almost incomprehensible. Christ's love is so deep and unconditional. Are we at that point?

Also, I felt the feeling that during that verse the Lord was talking to just his disciples and I believe first we need to love our brothers and sisters in Christ, as Christ loves us. It should be easy to love each other. We believe the same things, we worship the same way, and we are a part of the same body. But, even though it should be easy to love one another we still have offenses, hold grudges and hold ourselves back from moving forward. Is that loving like Christ? And the thought came to me, that now, today for our time we need to love everyone the way that Christ loves us. Not just those in the church, but our neighbors, coworkers, and family. Even those individuals of another faith, that don't embrace the same beliefs we do, do we love them like Christ loves them?

This leads to another part of the verse that really struck me: “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples...” It is the love of God that is going to change the world. Every human being no matter what race or gender can understand love. To Israel we are to be nursing mothers and fathers...love them. Are we here yet? Have we reached this pinnacle?

The theme, “Love as I have loved you”, came to me in school. I was pondering and praying about what the actual theme should be. I carry a pocket bible with me in school and I was going over the verse looking at it and praying. As class started to begin, those words which are contained in the verse just jumped out at me. The spirit of God came upon me so strong, and I knew that is what the theme was to be.