

From Heaven's Heart

"Love, Love and More Love"

I'm writing this letter to you the day after Valentine's Day...why would I be thinking about anything other than Love?

As I ponder over this word, Love, I asked myself, is there anything I can share with you about love that you don't already know?

The quick answer is no...at least not if you love the Lord...because if you love the Lord, you already know that He loves you. "For God so loved the world...that's you and me...that He gave His Son to die for you and for me so that as we, by faith believe in Christ, we are saved for eternity and will spend life with our Father in Heaven and with all believers in Paradise. What more do we need to know about love?

For you and me as believers, there's nothing more to know about love...or is there?

Well, we know. Jesus said we are to love God with everything...heart, soul, mind and strength...but then He said, Love others...not just a little, but as much as He loves us...as much as we love ourselves. This is love, love and more love is it not! And if you are like me, this is the part of LOVE that's sometimes a very hard thing to do.

Let's go back to His love for us. How much does He love us? Enough to lay down His life for us...enough to create us just the way He wanted us to be. Unique, with purpose, individuals, not another person like us, to be loved, to love back and to love others.

But here's the part many do not understand or practice about LOVE. He told the folks who believed, who chose to love Him, "Now go and tell and show the world about my love and let my love fill them up with my love so they might choose to believe, to love others. With all their shortcomings many went and the results were amazing. Many believed, many loved, but many more did not believe. And the bible tells us not to be surprised. We can't force someone to love God, to love others or to love us back can we? And sometimes, we have those moments when we do not love.

Remember Peter? Did anyone love His Lord Jesus more than Peter. Yet the very night Jesus was arrested, and as He predicted, Peter denied even knowing Jesus three times. Can you imagine carrying the weight of this denial? Would Jesus condemn Peter? Would He punish Peter? Or would He love Peter?

Jesus finished His work. He suffered and died on the cross. He was buried and then walked out of the grave and went to Peter. So He asked Peter, three times. "Peter, do you love me?" Yes Lord, you know I love you. No condemnation from Jesus followed. Simply these words from Jesus to Peter. "Then feed my sheep." Might this be something about LOVE we do not fully understand and embrace? What does it mean to love but to deny Jesus or others while we confess our love?

What is there about the meaning of love that we know but fall short doing what Jesus asked us to do? Do you love me? Yes Lord, you know I love you. Then feed my sheep. Are you feeding the lost sheep of the world? Are we going into the world around us, a few homes away, at work, within our families; are we feeding His sheep? What does it mean to feed His sheep?

How did Peter respond to Jesus' command, "Feed My sheep". Unlike before, Peter went boldly into the small world he knew, and he told the people what he had personally experienced. He told them who Jesus is. He told them about His miraculous birth, born of a virgin. He shared stories of His wisdom, His power to heal, He was without sin, He loved the unlovable. He forgave the murderers, the prostitutes, adulterers, thieves, liars. Then He suffered, died and rose from the grave after three days, walked and talked to many people for about forty days. Then God lifted Him up into the clouds as His Holy Spirit filled the people who believed, who loved. His Holy Spirit protected them, counseled them, empowered them with boldness. Spoke through them...and like Peter, they would keep sharing the greatest love story ever lived as Christ lived in all believers giving them the same power He gave Peter. Do you power, wisdom, counsel, protection, love? You can have it if by faith you choose to believe in the Son of God...and with your choice comes His promise out of His love for you...Eternal Life spent in Paradise.

According to God's word, much of the world will face eternal judgment one day because they refuse to believe in the One God sent to save them from Judgment. Yet there is still

hope for the world. You and I are called to be the voice of Christ to a world living in darkness and silence.

LOVE...will you and I be the voice of His love, a voice God wants to use to bring His light that will break through the darkness and sing hope in the silence of a lost world. Can we be a voice? Yes! Will we be a voice? Perhaps the depth of our LOVE for Jesus Christ will answer the question.

With the deepest love for you,

Pastor Steve