

LOVE : THE GREATEST FOUNDATION

Valentines day is a time when people think of love, chocolate, flowers, giving and receiving love from special people in their life.

It was May of 1986, and I had one more month to prepare to live in England to serve as a missionary for several years. I asked God what he would like me to read in preparation for my upcoming mission overseas. He led me to a book called '*Walking in the Realm of the Miraculous*' by Kenneth Copeland. It was about walking in God's love. One verse that resonated deeply in me was this one.

*'And so we **know** and **rely** on the love
God has for us.'* (1 John 4:16) NIV

God was preparing me for what was to come in the coming years. There were many great experiences and changed lives, but it was not without times of disappointment, rejection, misunderstanding, personal attacks from various sources and even false slanderous attacks on my reputation. I was thankful that God had wisely given me **a foundation to trust in....His love for me.**

In the year previous to my moving to England, God had me meditate on the beautiful prayer of Paul in Ephesians 3:14-21. Before Paul was converted he was proud and hateful, but now he was humble and loving as he wrote from prison. At one time Paul hated the church of Jesus Christ, but now he had a passion for Christ's church. He reminds his readers that they are being built together to become a holy temple and dwelling place (home) for God's Spirit (Ephesians 2:21-22) His prayer was that they would be strengthened in their **inner man** and that.....

*'...Christ may **dwell** in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you being that you, being **rooted and grounded in love** may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be **filled** to the measure of all the **fullness of God***
- Ephesians 3:17-19

Dwell translated:

- 'that Christ may 'finally settle down and **feel at home**' - Wuest
- 'dwell (settle down, abide, make his **permanent home**) - Amplified

Jesus was sent on a mission of love from his Father's heavenly house. The atmosphere there was one filled with love. Now he has come to live in his church by his Spirit. Will he ever leave? No, he has come to make his permanent home in his church. However, does he always feel at home? No, not if love is lacking in the atmosphere. Paul mentions this later in his letter when he talks about how we can **grieve** the Spirit if we are not being kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other.

We are to imitate Jesus as his dearly loved children and **live a life of love**, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as a sacrifice. Jesus showed us that love is **sacrificial** and is a **sweet fragrance** to God (Ephesians 4:30 - 5:1-2).

' A step out of love is a step into sin' - Kenneth Copeland

To live above with the saints we love,
that will be glory!
To live below with the saints we know,
now that's another story! -unknown

The Bible refers to us as trees. God wants us to be **rooted in love** so our lives bear the fruit of the Spirit. God also refers to us as a building, a temple, and thus we need to be **grounded in love**, otherwise our foundation will be unstable. Does God like flowers, chocolate and Valentines Day? You can make up your own mind, but one thing I know for sure is this, God likes to see his children live a life of love. It all begins with a love foundation....being rooted and grounded in his love. For a Christian, every day can be a valentines day as we think about God's love and express it towards Him and others. Jesus has come to stay in us, let us make Him feel at home.

Happy Valentines Day!

John the Beloved :)
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