

LOVE OUTPOURED

February 2017

Welcome to Niagara Falls, once known as the honeymoon capital of the world. Jerome Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon, was one of the first to bring his new bride here in the early 19th century. In 1953 the film Niagara (starring Marilyn Monroe) featured a newlywed couple who came to the falls. The movie increased the popularity of the Falls as a honeymoon destination. Up to 20 million tourists now come here yearly to experience the breathtaking view. They are also influenced by something here they may not even be aware of. It is the ion effect. We have all experienced it when we have taken a shower. Falling water creates thousands of negative ions which have a positive effect. It lowers serotonin levels in the blood, promotes alpha brain waves and creates a calming effect. Negative ions also purify the air and produce high volumes of oxygen. You can imagine how much more this effect could be felt here at the Falls.

Niagara Falls is one of the greatest generators of negative ions in the world. When people come here they feel euphoric and excited. One can see how couples would find this place romantic. God is also interested in romance and love.

'Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.' Romans 5:5 Amplified

The perfect tense of the verb 'poured out' indicates that God's love was poured out and **still floods** our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

- Goodrich/Kohlenberg

The above verse speaks of God's love poured out into our hearts. It is a final and completed action as God has held nothing back. Another meaning for poured out is '**gusher**'. It is a forceful, abundant supply that comes from something or someone. In Revelation 22:1-2 we are told that there is a river of crystal clear water flowing from God's throne down through the middle of the great street of the heavenly city. On each side of the river is the tree of life.

In the Spirit realm, God has a river that flows from his heart to ours. God's Spirit of love has been 'gushed' to the middle of our heart. Jesus said that out of our belly shall flow rivers of living water. It brings good fruit in our lives and to others.

Niagara Falls gets its abundant supply of water from four other Great Lakes which begins with Lake Superior, then Michigan, Huron and Erie and then from the Niagara River. Niagara Falls has only stopped once due to natural causes. It did so for a short time in 1848 when west winds stopped the flow of water.

The flow of the supernatural river of love that comes to our hearts, does not begin with a lake but with the one who is Superior and who sits on a throne of grace. Grace means generous favor. The verb form of grace means 'to deal generously with'. God's

flow of love will never stop or run dry. It is unlimited and abundant, but it must be 'received' to be enjoyed.

Perhaps you have never been to Niagara Falls to experience its wonders but the outpouring of God's love is available to you wherever you are. Next time you take a shower and the water is pouring over you, take time to enjoy the invigoration of those negative ions. God may give you some creative ideas or just happy thoughts. Here is truth that you can gladly confess....

***'...the love of God has been poured out into
my heart by his Holy Spirit.'* - Romans 5:5**

As the water of the shower cascades over you, think of God's love for you and thank him for being the same God that passed his goodness to go before Moses.

***'The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining
love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.'*
Exodus 34:6**

It was February of 1967 when an outpouring of God's love and Spirit came to a small group of students on a retreat at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Since then it spread to over 120 million Catholics in what is known as the charismatic renewal. I am one Protestant who was touched by it over 10 years later at Villa Maria College in Erie, Pennsylvania. It was there that I was first introduced to this move of God's Spirit. I will save that story for another time.

I have decided to stay here at Niagara Falls for a while longer. It has come to my attention that the falls is not only a place of love and romance, but a place of power.

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