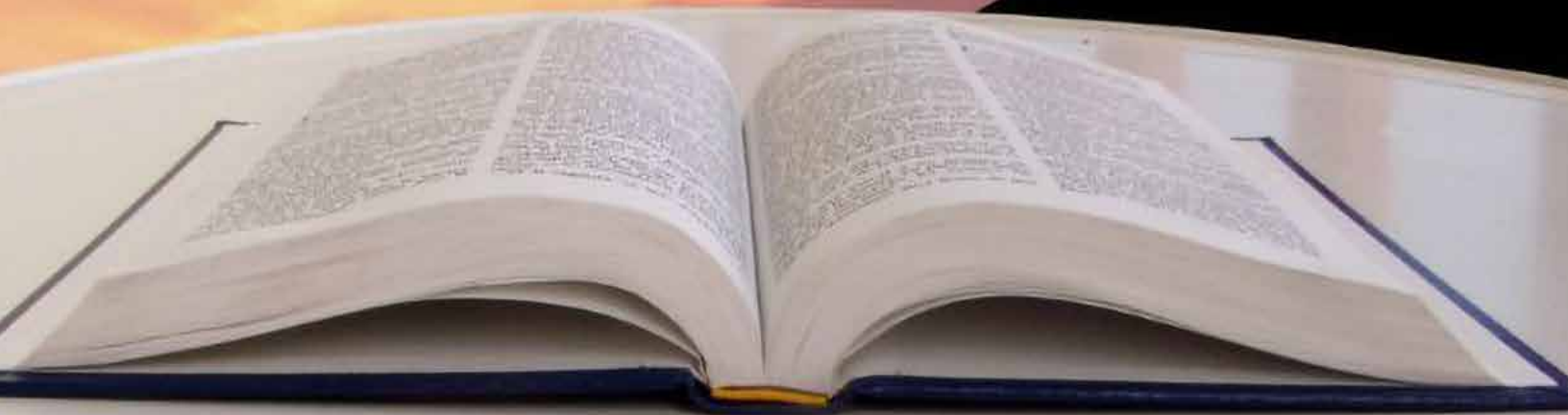




# Foundation of Faith



## Agape - Godly Love



- What Love Can Achieve
- Do You Love Me?
- Revitalizing One's First Love
- The Missing Medication
- How to Fertilize Love

JULY 2024

# Contents

## AGAPE—GODLY LOVE

- 4 **What Love Can achieve**
- 5 **Incomprehensible Love**
- 6 **Love—A Strong Bond**  
*What binds believers?*
- 8 **The Greatest of These is Love**
- 9 **Compassionate and Brotherly Love**  
*How God's love in our hearts is expressed towards others.*
- 10 **Revitalizing One's First Love**
- 11 **God is Love**
- 12 **Do You Love Me?**  
*Learning to listen and obey.*
- 14 **The High Road of Love**  
*What is the greatest thing love can do for others?*
- 16 **How to Fertilize Love**  
*What can we do to let our love grow?*

## 3 **Editorial**

### CHILDREN'S CORNER

- 18 **Consider the Lilies of the Field**
- 19 **Is it a Good Secret?**

### YOUTH PAGES

- 20 **Great Endurance**  
*It is necessary for spiritual life and should be developed.*

## 22 **The Missing Medicaiton**

### SERIES "I WILL BE WITH YOU"

- 24 **Winter Baptism (Part 7)**

### EXPERIENCES WITH GOD

- 26 **One of Fifty**
- 27 **Through Many Trials**

### POEM

- 28 **Godly Love**

## FOUNDATION OF FAITH

*Editor*

Hans-Dietrich Nimz

*Editorial Team*

Niko Ernst

Harry Semenjuk

Ron Taron

Hermann Vogt

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Questions and suggestions can be sent to:  
[contact@foundationoffaith.cc](mailto:contact@foundationoffaith.cc)

Please address all other correspondence and subscription requests to:  
Christian Unity Press  
5195 Exchange Drive  
Flint, MI 48507  
Tel.: (810) 732-1831  
or email us at  
[cupress@thechurchofgod.cc](mailto:cupress@thechurchofgod.cc)  
[www.christianunitypress.com](http://www.christianunitypress.com)

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## *Editorial*

Dear Reader,

The whole world longs for love. Doesn't it often seem like a loud cry, searching and longing for recognition? The Bible speaks of this: "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God" (Psalm 42:1-2). The psalmist thirsted for God, Who is the true source of all love.

Most people do not even know they are being tempted and deceived by Satan. They seek to satisfy themselves with alcohol, drugs, fornication, adultery, and other sinful activities, bringing misery and ruin to body and soul, yes, even leading to death and eternal damnation.

However, "in this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9). Therefore, the Son of God had to suffer and die on Golgotha and win glorious victory for us all at Easter. His love brings light, warmth, and divine knowledge of sin and injustice and shows the way to salvation and redemption.

Sin is strong and powerful and drives millions to damnation. But divine love is stronger than all hatred and enmity. God proclaims this fact to us like a mighty trumpet. "For love *is as* strong as death, jealousy *as* cruel as the grave. Its flames *are* flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised" (Song of Solomon 8:6-7).

Dear Reader, take hold of this wonderful, strong, divine love, remain in Jesus, and live in the service of Christ until the Lord calls you home to eternal glory!

*H. D. Nimz*

# What Love Can Achieve

One day, Dwight Moody received a letter with the following request:

“Mr. Moody, would you come to the prison tomorrow morning at 10 o’clock? A prisoner is being released who is all alone in this world. Perhaps you can do something for him. But we want to warn you that his appearance is terrifying. Even his fellow inmates want nothing to do with this man.”

Moody was immediately willing to take care of this matter. The next morning, he went to the prison. At exactly 10:00, the prisoner was released. Moody immediately felt deep compassion for this man. He approached him, patted him on the shoulder, and asked kindly, “Dear Friend, how are you?”

The man replied harshly, “What nonsense, calling me friend! I have no friend, and you are not my friend either!”

“And yet you are my friend,” Moody assured him, “and I will prove it to you. Look, you have had breakfast, but where will you get

something for lunch? Here is some money for lunch, and I invite you to my house for dinner. My wife will welcome you warmly. Here is my address.” The man took the money but did not promise to appear that evening.

Evening came. In Moody’s house, the table was set for his family, as well as for this criminal. Everything had been arranged as nicely and comfortably as one would do for a dear guest. In a small side room was set out water to wash, a towel, a brush, and a comb. Just as they finished all the preparations, the doorbell rang. Indeed, the man had come!

Moody went to the door himself and brought his unusual guest inside. Moody prayed at the table, as he always did. When the meal was over, his little daughter asked, “Papa, may I sit on your lap now?”

“Of course,” said the father and took his child on his lap. Then he whispered something in her ear. A slight look of surprise crossed the little girl’s face, but then she slipped

off her father’s knee and cautiously approached the stranger. A bit fearfully, she reached out her hand to him, but shortly afterward, she suddenly threw her arms around the stranger’s neck and gave him a kiss.

The criminal sat there for a moment, as if paralyzed. Then he put his hands over his face; his head bowed down to the table, and he began to cry heart-wrenchingly.

Through the love Moody showed this man and through the trust of a child, the defiant resistance in the heart of a hardened sinner was broken. He experienced the saving power of Jesus and as the Bible says, became, “a new creation.” Later, this man became a co-worker of Moody, convincingly preaching the gospel.

This story demonstrates the power of love. But it is not the natural, human love that has such strength. It is the power of the love of Jesus, as described by the Apostle Paul in the “song of love” (1 Corinthians 13). ■



# Incomprehensible Love

**M**any years ago, I was in East Prussia, hiking along the coast of the Baltic Sea. Deep solitude surrounded me, and the only sound I heard was the ocean's waves. Some distance ahead of me, I noticed a hill very close to the sea from which a tall black cross protruded. I quickened my pace and soon stood before it.

I knew the significance of this monument, and my thoughts wandered back to a time long, long past. Over 600 years ago, at this very spot, the Archbishop Adalbert of Prague was murdered by the Prussians, who were pagans at the time. This brave man had undertaken the hardships of the journey to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Savior of sinners, to the heathen. Burning love for lost souls drove him to this endeavor. Those very people whom he truly cared for were fueled by fanatical hatred toward the divine God and brutally murdered this brave soul there. Love had moti-

vated his life and, ultimately, his death.

I lingered long at this place, reflecting in spirit on a much greater Love. I thought of the hill of Golgotha. There, too, stood a raised cross. And there bled the One who loved an entire sinful humanity, sunk in misery and sinful wretchedness, even unto death. For me and for you, He died there so that we might live.

Can you grasp this? No, our natural understanding is not sufficient. It requires the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. If you have passed by this cross in incomprehensible indifference for so long, please listen: He died for you so that you might live.

Can you remain calm at this thought? Rejecting the admonition of the Holy Spirit is a sin before God. He calls and entices you to seek forgiveness for your sins. But if you persist in resisting Him, He will eventually need to turn from you in sorrow and pain. Then the time of grace will be finished, and

eternal torment and damnation will be your portion. Consider earnestly and ponder what it means to be eternally cast from the presence of God.

God is love, and He also loves you with a wonderful, incomprehensible love. Through His sacrificial death, He has prepared eternal life full of joy and bliss for all. The Holy Spirit, Who speaks powerfully to your conscience from time to time, wants to lead you to Jesus, the Savior of sinners.

As you read these lines, let your thoughts dwell on the greatest act of love that has ever occurred. God's Son endured scorn, awful blows, and hateful mockery when He died for all sinners, including you and me. Is there a greater love? Never! Even now, you can live a life full of joy as you follow Jesus. But do not delay any longer. Take the opportunity today. Tomorrow may be too late. Hurry and let Jesus save your soul! ■



# Love— A Strong Bond



**D**ifficulties and divisions had arisen in the Corinthian church, resulting in Paul writing the chapter on love in 1 Corinthians 13. Just as cement holds a building together, so true agape love holds the church together. No matter how spiritually mature a church may be, it will not be able to avoid the dangers of unkindness and division. Therefore, this word applies to all of us.

We could look at this chapter from different points of view. We could look at everything a person does—be it their abilities, their willingness to make sacrifices, their faith, and much more—as worthless without love. We could describe the characteristics of true

love. But in this article, we will look at what love does not do.

### **Love Thinks No Evil**

Love does not impulsively see a wrong motive in the actions of another. It is precisely mistrust that so often disturbs the healthy, harmonious relationship between children of God. Therefore, if we hear or see something negative about another person, we do not wish to form a hasty opinion. Often, such hastily-formed opinions are not correct.

Almost without exception, I have regretted forming a judgment without knowing the context or background beforehand. On the other hand, when I started from

the premise that love “thinks no evil,” I was always able to form a more accurate judgment. In some situations, we also need to take a stand on the missteps in a person’s life, but we should always look for the good first.

### **Love Does Not Rejoice in Iniquity**

When others fail, are we really saddened by it? Or do we say, “That’s what I thought!” We don’t like to talk about things that grieve us. We would much rather talk about things that give us joy. Some are quick to speak of others’ failures and play up their “sadness” about their neighbor’s actions. The matter would be much better served



if they prayed first before talking about their neighbor's failure.

It is true that some problems need to be discussed among believers in a close circle. However, these discussions should not take place thoughtlessly nor hastily. We all have our weak points. Do you know how believers can work together in great unity despite all their weaknesses? If they always look at the positive sides of their brothers and sisters first.

I have found that when I have been bothered by a particular weakness in someone's life, the best way for me to get over it is to look at their good qualities. How small the weaknesses of others then become!

### **Love Does Not Envy**

You could also say that love is not jealous. If we are envious or jealous, if we cannot rejoice in the achievements and accomplishments of others, then we lack true love. Jealousy and envy produced the first murderer. Cain was jealous because God recognized Abel's sacrifice and not his. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12 that the gifts and talents in the body of Christ are different. God's order and purpose is to give everyone different gifts so His body is perfect. We must learn to appreciate, respect, and love one another with our special tasks and abilities. One can truly be joyful if he stands faithfully in his given place, whether in the congregation or at work, and not be envious of the position and reward of others.

### **Love Does Not Parade Itself, Is Not Puffed Up**

Some believers are not jealous but are very proud of their achievements and abilities. They think they are much more intelligent and gifted than everyone else. This was also the problem in the Corinthian church. Some believed they had more valuable gifts and compared themselves to the others. One of the worst dangers in the church occurs when we compare our abilities with those of our brothers and sisters. This does not come from love. It is so much better if we give heartfelt praise and encourage others.

### **Love Does Not Behave Rudely**

Love is never rude. When patience is stretched, some think they need to give the other person a piece of their mind. But true love never

does that. While we need to assert ourselves in some situations and stand our ground, it is always important how we do it. Love does not behave inappropriately.

### **Love Is Not Provoked**

Sensitivity can also be a problem. Far too easily we allow ourselves to be hurt. True love is not so quick to realize that one has been mistreated. We simply must accept the other person as they are. Of course, it is also wrong for someone to say, "This is the way I am, so you just have to accept me."

Despite our widely varying temperaments, we should always strive to become more Christ-like. One is quiet, the other talks a lot, one is slow, the other fast, etc. But if we love one another, then these things must not interfere with our fellowship.

### **Love Does Not Seek Its Own**

The natural man is selfish and tends to seek his own advantage. But perfect love is concerned with the good of others. We will never be useful in God's kingdom work if we think everything must revolve around our own interests. Working for the Lord, in particular, requires a great deal of selflessness and sacrifice. Only when our own interests and desires die can fruit come forth for the salvation of the lost.

What holds believers together? True love. In Colossians 3:12-14, the apostle Paul says, "Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering . . . . But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection." ■



## “The greatest of these is love”

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love”  
(1 Corinthians 13: 13).

The 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians is probably the most heart-searching and soul-revealing chapter in the entire Bible. Every child of God should read this chapter at least once a month in order to derive personal benefit from it.

This chapter goes so far as to say that if we had a gift of oratory like the most gifted of men, or even like the angels, and did not have love, then everything would be empty and meaningless. Love is more important than the gift of prophecy, the unshakeable faith that can move mountains, or the gift of understanding great mysteries. Without love, all these gifts would mean nothing.

It was love that moved God to devise a plan of salvation and to send Jesus into this world. It was the love of Christ that prompted Him to lay down His life for us on the cross.

Love is also a hallmark of God’s children. “If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit” (1 John 4: 12–13).

Love is long-suffering. It does not give up until complete victory has been won. It does not matter what trials we must go through. Love will faithfully endure everything because love never ends.

Love is kind, and kindness is proof of Christian strength. It requires true strength of character to be kind at all times and in all circumstances. The whole world hungers for true kindness. We may never be famous or rich, but we can all be kind. “Kindness is a language the dumb can speak, and the deaf can hear and understand” [Bovee 19th c.].

Love is free of greed. It grants her neighbors what she has. Love will never boast in a pompous way and

show off to others. It is not selfish and does not seek its own advantage. It is not thoughtless, nor does it become embittered when others oppose it.

Love does not give room to suspicion. It does not rejoice at the iniquities of others but tries to help where and how she can. It rejoices in the truth. It is always ready to excuse the weaknesses of others and to overlook their shortcomings and faults. It believes the best of others and is patient with all.

When love dwells in the heart, you love God with all your heart and also have the best interests of your neighbor in mind. We love our neighbor as ourselves. True love makes it possible for us to love even our enemies. Love makes life worth living and gives us true joy.

Love seeks to express itself. Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha, poured precious oil on Jesus out of love. For this she was rebuked, but the Lord said, “Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.”

Love unites hearts. Paul wrote, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4: 1–3).

The love of God prompts individual members of Christ’s body to be firmly united with all the others. Where love is lost, unity is also lost.

Love keeps us steadfast and faithful to the end. Through love, we can rejoice with the joyful and weep with those who weep. In all of life’s relationships, the true bond of love can maintain unity of spirit.

A. P. Gregory



# Compassionate and Brotherly Love

“We love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

Our Christian love must be based exclusively on the love of the triune God and particularly on the love of Jesus for us. “He first loved us” (1 John 4: 19). This is the basis of our love for Him, our Lord and Savior—a love that must find its fulfillment through the hidden interaction with the Friend of our soul. This love for our King and Savior is expressed through thanks and worship.

However, in addition to loving God, the Father, Jesus, His Son, and the Holy Spirit, we absolutely need to love our neighbors, our fellow humans. The work of salvation, which Jesus performed from the manger to the cross, was done for them too. We cannot love our neighbors without loving Jesus or without Jesus loving us. The world knows no real neighborly love, regardless of how much they talk about it. The way we love our neighbors depends on their relationship with God. Towards people who have surrendered to Jesus’ love, our love is brotherly. Towards the others, who hurry on their way blind and deaf, without forgiveness of sins and without assurance of salvation, our love should be compassionately evident.

Jesus gives us the right example of this gracious love towards others in Matthew 9:35–36, where He was moved with compassion because they were weary and scattered, like sheep without a shepherd. He felt bad about their physical suffering and illness but even worse about their inner need. We must have deep compassion with all the temporal needs, illnesses, worries, and difficulties of our neighbors who are far from God.

Therefore we will help soothe, and comfort wherever and however we can. But our deepest compassion must be shown for their inner needs: the unbelief, apathy, shallowness, and sin of a world that does not share our values. This sincere compassion must be expressed through God’s merciful love when we help and serve

our neighbors. Does it hurt your heart to see crowds of misled, restless people rushing through the streets, the stores, and everywhere else? Does it hurt you to think of how they know no forgiveness of sins, have no peace, and may perish wretched and unsaved for all eternity?

Their plight calls for compassionate love. This love must drive you to serve the lost world through testimony and through intercession in prayer. This compassionate love proclaims to them the love of Jesus, the only One who can save and heal. This compassionate love faithfully prays for these people, over and over again, as was the case with Abraham, Moses, and Paul. Let’s not walk past the blind crowds of the unsaved in arrogance or disdain. Instead, let’s try to serve them compassionately, wherever God’s Spirit shows us a way.

The identifying feature of our discipleship under Jesus is to be brotherly, sincere love among us. This brotherly love separates us from the world, often making us lonely pilgrims and strangers, but it also unites us with other pilgrims and strangers in true and therefore blessed fellowship.

We love each other as people equally surrendered to the love of Jesus. This brotherly love should be sincere, ardent, and humble, coming from a true and faithful heart, not being cold and dead but rather burning, active, helpful, and self-sacrificing. Being humble means we step back ourselves in order to prioritize what is good for others (see Philippians 2: 1–14). This brotherly love is the testimony and seal of the love of Jesus living in our hearts. It is also a testimony for the loveless and uncomprehending world outside.

Compassionate and brotherly love is so rare, but it is absolutely necessary. Let’s be more compassionate towards those on the outside and more brotherly towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. ■

# Revitalizing One's First Love

*“Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent” (Revelation 2:4–5).*

Every born-again child of God remembers being justified through faith in Jesus, their “strong and ardent affection for God and sacred things” (Clarke), their “first love.” We know well the love that flooded our soul when the Lord first saved us. We also had a great desire for others to experience Jesus as their personal Savior. It was not hard for us to speak to others about the need for salvation. We eagerly attended worship services and loved fellowshiping with our spiritual brothers and sisters. We counted it a great privilege to serve the Lord together with them. In order to fill our place in the congregation, it was easy for us to give up other obligations, even if they were important. How we loved to pray to our heavenly Father in secret and to spend dedicated time with Him. With our finances and time, we joyfully supported the work of the Lord. Our hearts felt burdened because we saw so many people around us living in sin. How we pleaded for them on our knees, praying for their salvation. How powerful was our love for the Lord after we were first saved!

But have our hearts now changed? Does it cost us extra resolve to find time to earnestly seek God's face in prayer? Are we sometimes tempted not to regularly attend worship services? Do we hesitate to speak to others about the Lord? Has our love to the Lord and towards others become lukewarm or even cold?

Then it is time to return to our first love by allowing God to revitalize us. The Holy Spirit must once more fill our hearts with the fire of holy love so we can serve Him with total dedication.

Revival of first love can also apply to an entire congregation, or even its pastor, for whom it is also important to make more room for the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of the Lord will find those willing to be anointed and receive more power from God's vast storehouse. A burning desire to win souls for the Lord

will fill those who preach the Word. The church will be filled with the spirit of faithfulness to the Lord. This will urge the individual members to stand up for God more resolutely and to show the world the image of Christ through their lives.

When the early church was persecuted and the believers were scattered, the spread of the gospel did not cease. On the contrary, it increased, because every disciple, wherever they ended up going, gave testimony of the saving grace of the Savior to whoever was willing to listen. God honored the witness of these faithful followers of Christ, and congregations were established in many places throughout the regions. What the enemies of Christ wished to hinder actually helped the cause of Christ.

These followers of Christ did not settle in a foreign place in order to hide or mourn over the loss of fellowship with their brothers and sisters. No, rather, they went to work in order to sow the good seed of the gospel.

How many isolated Christians and even pastors today may live somewhere for years without even their neighbors hearing biblical truth from them. This was unheard of among the first Christians. They opened their mouths and spoke freely of the things of God. Soon, they had people gather around them who hungered for the truth. The Gospel of Christ was a precious renewing for the roots which these people had lost.

A revival of first love will fill our congregations with brothers and sisters praying earnestly for the salvation of others. They will feel the burden for lost souls in their hearts. With eagerness they will accept the Word that is preached by their pastor. Righteousness will increase throughout the land. Satan and his kingdom will have serious losses, and the Kingdom of God will grow and thrive.

*J. R. T.*

# God is Love

*“God is love; and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him”  
(1 John 4: 16).*

In recent decades, we have seen a frequent and divergent use of the word “love” in our society. However, what has been offered or imposed on young people in particular under this label has nothing to do with pure love but is instead disdainful lawlessness and immorality. Unfortunately, many people have suffered great harm to body and soul as a result of this deception.

Everyone longs for love. Therefore, it is important for us to be able to distinguish between real love and ungodly lust.

God is love—that is what the Bible says. This word shows us the right way to love. God is the source of love. God’s love is true love: pure, holy, and strong. Everyone can find security and safety in this love of God. Through this love, one is freed from the yoke of sin, is elevated into the kingdom of God, and becomes a

member of the body of Jesus Christ. The one plagued by fear and insecurity in the cold loneliness of the world comes into the warmth of fellowship with the Father. He not only receives the love of God, but the love of God fills him. Now love is the power in his life. It determines his actions; it permeates his thoughts and gives him joy and happiness. Life takes on a whole new meaning. It becomes so infinitely precious and conveys eternal bliss, which nothing in this world can tarnish.

Once you have found this source, keep it with all diligence. Give everything you have to abide in God’s love! This divine love keeps one on the right path, making it apparent throughout life. God is not where disorderly conduct and impurity reign.

Do not be seduced by fine words. If you seek love, then seek God, for God is love! ■





# Do You Love Me?

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs” (John 21:15).

Jesus asks Simon Peter the heartfelt question if he truly loves Him. Jesus wants His disciples to know that in order to follow Him, they must forsake all and take up their cross and follow in His steps (Luke 9:23). But in a broader sense, He is asking Peter and all of us: Do we love the Lord more than all our belongings, our family, our jobs, our homes, our country, and our very lives. Do we? Peter’s answer was, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

Dear Reader, have you come to know Jesus as your personal Savior? Jesus will ask each one of us personally, “Do you love Me?” When He calls you, do you see the nail marks in His hands and feet? Do you see how He loved you first and poured out His life on the cross to save you? We must come to God in faith and repent of our sins in order to be saved. Our faith must touch Jesus, whose blood alone can wash away all our sins and set us free to serve Him. Such faith is filled and driven by a vibrant love.

I remember my early years as a Christian, how the joy and peace of my newfound Savior filled my heart! Soon after being born again by the Spirit, the Lord gave me a wonderful wife, Doris, who also was filled with a fervent love for the Lord. Out of our love for Jesus, we both wished to serve Him in a greater capacity. Two months after our wedding, our local pastor in Edmonton, Brother Berndt, came to pay us a visit. During his visit, he mentioned there was an opportunity for a couple to serve in our Church of God mission school in Neustädt, Mexico. By the time he left, it became clear to all of us that we should fill this calling and serve there for one school year. Joyfully, we thanked the Lord for His leading in prayer.

In the early spring of 1979, Brother H. D. Nimz, the pastor in Mexico, contacted us, and we expressed our desire to come. He was very supportive and committed to pray for all to go well. However, in the following weeks, one roadblock after another presented itself. My father was completely against our plans, noting that I would likely lose my new job at the bank, and since we were renting a home from him, he would have to find new tenants while we were gone. Was it really worth our leaving for one school year to serve in





Mexico and cause so much grief? Yet Jesus had called us to follow Him.

The weeks passed, and it seemed we simply could not go. We kept struggling with the thought that we must honor our father and his wishes. Yet, on the other hand, if our Heavenly Father calls us to follow His will, which is contrary to our earthly father's, what then? One day, I said to my wife that if on this very day, Pastor Nimz, who had not called in months, would call and ask us to come again, we must go. Within a few hours, the telephone rang, and it was him! He again pleaded with us to come and reminded us that whoever loves father and mother, houses, and careers more than Jesus is not worthy of Him (Matthew 10:37-38). It was as if the Lord was directly saying to us, "Do you love Me? Then go to the mission field and help feed My lambs."

Doris and I still had no answers, yet in faith we knelt before the Lord and cried out for His help. We prayed, "Lord, you know we love You and wish to obey You." We fully dedicated our lives to Him and pleaded in faith for Him to make a way.

In the following week, He did just that. The Lord Jesus removed one obstacle after another. I asked for a

leave of absence at work and received it for the whole school year. We heard that Doris's out-of-province cousins were looking for accommodations in Edmonton, as they wished to study at the university for a year. My father accepted them as tenants and had a complete change of heart. He was now willing to support us serving in the mission school!

With great joy and peace, we traveled to Mexico in September of 1979. I served as a teacher and Doris as a helper until the spring of 1980. We learned that if you really love Jesus with all your heart, listen to Him and obey His voice, He will always make a way!

Peter fully dedicates his life to the Lord when he answers, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You" (John 21:17). It is so wonderful to know that Jesus knows all things about us, including our weaknesses, and can help us in every situation. As we love and serve the Lord in faith, He has promised to answer our prayers and to impart His grace to us (John 14:13-14). Is your heart filled with His love? Can you answer with Peter, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You"?

*Harry Klinger, Winnipeg (CA)*



# The High Road of Love

“Love . . . is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.” (1 Corinthians 13:5, NIV)

**H**ow many bitter roots are found in those who call themselves Christians, in congregations and communities, amongst relatives and families!

I have often been shocked during my travels by the many petty squabbles among those who are supposed to represent the high goal of the Kingdom of God.

Bitterness arises from injustice, from slander, from hurtful defamation and judgmental attitudes, from unchristian actions and misrepresentation. When I think of all the broken trust, the wounded and embittered hearts, all the missed opportunities to show love, then I must say, there is great, triumphant “rejoicing” in hell. Such quarrels have no place in heaven.

May it not be necessary for some church leaders to approach members of their congregation with a heart-felt, “Please forgive me. In my zeal, I have sinned by acting without love.” Many congregation members need to find their way to their leaders to say, “Forgive me. My behavior was unloving and judgmental and not in line with Christ’s love.” Should not many brothers and sisters find a way to each other, to each other’s homes and hearts? In heaven, there will be joy among the angels that the children of God have bowed to one another and can forgive one another’s transgressions in brotherly love. This revival in the churches must come; otherwise, the bloodstains of destroyed brotherly love cannot hold back judgment of the church. Love must reveal wrongdoing.

Additionally, genuine love does not say, “I have forgiven, but I can never, ever forget.” Where true forgiveness takes place, one can also let go.

Sadly, it is true that in some families, strife and unforgiveness are passed down from generation to generation. Christians are also in danger of becoming bitter through an experience that deeply wounded them.

“Love . . . keeps no record of wrongs.”

We all have an unwritten account in our hearts, listing the great and small details from all the stories of the past:

- where we were hurt
- where we were taken advantage of
- where we were overlooked
- where we were wronged
- where we were insulted
- where we were dishonored, etc.

Such devastating, depressing bookkeeping! In this way, the devil magnifies memory and stokes the flames of bitterness. Is that genuine, strong Christ-like love? It keeps no record of offenses.

Now, I have a request: Destroy this bitter record and throw away the pen of unkindness and bitterness forever. Never, never keep a record of suffered wrongs again: forgive and forget.

God will bless you and make you very happy when you lovingly forgive. Moving forward, never weigh anything on the crude scale of offense; but everything on the gold scale of love that forgives.

If you have had a very painful experience that could make you bitter, then take the following story as an example: A genuine, effective Christian experienced much disappointment through fellow Christians at his workplace. He had endured great misunderstanding through damaging, judgmental criticism and was at risk of becoming bitter. Yet he expressed, “Only one





thing saved me from bitterness. For months, I have prayed 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter, twice a day, and then I feel empowered to love my brothers who have wronged me.”

Most certainly, the Lord will bless this man anew in due course and restore his honor. But you—go and do likewise—and you will be protected from bitterness.

Where do bitterness and unforgiveness lead? Here is a shocking, real-life example. A now-deceased prison chaplain recounts the following from his time of ministry:

“A 28-year-old man was seated in his cell. He came from a Christian home. His mother was a leading social figure. The young man worked at a bank after his military service. He fell into bad company and succumbed to drinking. He embezzled a large sum of money, and soon landed in prison. It was here he came to his senses and repented. He was about to be released and wanted to return to his parents’ home. In response to my plea to receive him with kindness, the mother replied, ‘My boy! The pastor writes that you want to

come home. That’s out of the question. You’ve already caused us, your distinguished parents, so much heartache, and we have now been socially branded by your prison sentence. You can only do us one favor: remove yourself from this world as soon as possible.’—The poor boy then granted his mother’s wish and left this life. The next morning, he was found dead, hanging in his cell, the mother’s letter spread out on the floor.” That is where unforgiveness and bitterness can lead when one refuses to forgive.

Dear Reader, don’t you have a lot or a little in your life for which you should forgive? Get on it soon, before the sun sets this evening, before it could be too late.

O love, as long as you can love,  
And love, as long as you are able.  
The hour comes, the hour draws near,  
When at the grave you cry your tears.  
Love keeps no record of wrongs!

*Daniel Schaefer*

## How to Fertilize Love

Love is the greatest thing in earth or heaven. Out of it flows most of the things that are worthwhile in life. Love of relatives, love of friends, and love of the brethren (1 John 3:4) make life worth living. There is no heart so empty as the heart that is without love. There is no life so joyful as the love-filled life. Love puts a song in the heart, a sparkle in the eye, a smile on the lips, and makes the whole being glad. And God's love is greater than all else. He who has God's love has a continual feast. There may be sorrow and care and suffering in the life; but if there is love, it lightens all these.

Sometimes there is not the love for the relatives that there ought to be. Sometimes there is not the love for the brethren that should characterize us. When we realize this and feel our lack, the question naturally arises, "How can my love for them be increased?" Plants cannot grow without fertility, that is, the soil must contain the elements necessary to growth. If these are absent, they must be supplied, or there can be no harvest. This is equally true of love. It must be fertilized if it is to grow. Do you realize that you are lacking in love for someone? Do you manifest as much affection toward your conjugal companion as you did in the days gone by?

There are very many things that may choke out love in the home. One of these is the lack of kindness. If you have grown less kind in your feelings, in your actions, and in your words, love can not thrive. Kindness is one of the best fertilizers for love. Do you show the same consideration for the feelings and tastes of your companion as you used to show? There are so many people who have two sets of tones in which to speak, and two sets of manners in which they act. They have their company manners and their family manners. When they have company, the voice is soft and pleasant, the manners are agreeable and kindly. They treat their friends with the greatest consideration, but as soon as their friends are gone, the pleasant voice changes into crossness or harshness and faultfinding, and the pleasant-

ness of manner disappears. In how many homes is this true! The greater consideration, the greater kindness, is due the home folks. Otherwise, love cannot flourish. If you wish to have love for your home folks, you must show them the consideration that is due them.

Some professors of religion are like the catbird. When it is away from the nest, it is one of the sweetest of the northern warblers, and so it is often called the northern mocking-bird; but when it is close to its nest, you will hear only a harsh, discordant note. It has no sweetness in its voice while at its nest. Some people reserve all their kindness, tenderness, and sweetness for those outside the family circle. Is it any wonder that love dies in such a home? If you realize you do not love someone enough, begin to consider their desires. Begin to show a special interest in them. Watch for opportunities to be kind to them. Try especially to be agreeable, and you will soon find that this reacts upon yourself; in a short time you will find your love increasing, and the more you follow this course, the more your love will increase.

I have been asked if we should love all saints the same. Some have even taught that if we were right in our souls we would love one of God's children as much as another. This however, is not possible. Even Jesus loved some of His disciples more than others. There were three—James, Peter, and John—who were closer to Him than the others; and of these, John was most beloved. He calls himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved." If love for the brethren depended solely on spiritual things, then, possibly, we might love all the same; but it depends to a great extent on other things as well. Jesus loved John much because of John's loving nature. We love those most who seem to us most lovable. We are drawn most to those whose dispositions and characters and interest appeal most strongly to us. There are those who are saved, who, because of their faults or unlovely dispositions, repel us rather than attract us. We will not find ourselves drawn into the same close relations with them as with the others.

There is danger of a twofold nature. On the one hand, we are liable to love some so much that we become partial towards them to such an extent that others will feel that we do not value them as we should. On the other hand, there is danger of looking at the unlovely qualities in another until we lose sight of the good that is in him, and grow prejudiced against him until it becomes hard to feel the proper love for him.

If we realize we do not love some of the brethren as we should, let us cease looking at the unlovely things, and look for the good things, the noble qualities. Seek out these things, keep them before the mind, overlook the faults and failings and unlovely traits. Begin to show special kindness, make it a point to speak to these brethren kindly; show an interest in them. Watch for a chance to do something helpful; go out of your way to do them favors. Possibly your own coldness has much to do with their attitude and feelings. Be as genial and sunshiny toward them as you are toward your closest friends. Some reserved natures need sunshine to open them up, just as do some flowers. Have you not seen flowers open up in the sunshine and throw their fragrance upon the breezes, and then, as a heavy cloud suddenly overspread the sky and the dark shadows fell, quickly close up? It is just that way with some natures. If we radiate sunshine, they unfold their beauties to us; but if we are cold and distant, we are permitted to see only the rough exterior. Love begets love. If we so act that love in us may grow and develop, we shall be loved in return.

Love cannot survive carelessness, indifference, and neglect. These things are poison to the tender plant. We can easily kill the love in our hearts, or we can cultivate and increase it till its blossoms and fragrance are the delight of our lives. If your love is not what it ought to be, try fertilizing it with kindness, gentleness, and self-sacrifice, and take away the weeds of selfishness, carelessness, and indifference. You will find that love will grow and increase, and become sweeter and more tender with the passing days.

*Charles Naylor*







## Consider the Lilies of the Field

**A**t the Earth's creation, God made man and woman in His image (Genesis 1: 26). This means that these two people had God's attributes in their character. They were to cultivate the Garden of Eden and treat the plants, birds, fish, and animals well. And every evening, God visited them and spoke to them. This made them very happy.

Even today, we can live with God because Jesus Christ died and rose again for us. We can read the Bible, God's Word, and learn from it. Jesus once told His disciples not to worry about what they would eat or wear. They should look at the flowers in the fields and how beautiful God had made each one of them and how He cares for all His creatures, but especially for His children. Jesus and His kingdom should take the first place in our lives. Everything else is an additional blessing from God.

Whether you are a boy or a girl, you too are not only a creation of God, but can also be His child.

Through your parents, God has blessed you with a wardrobe full of clothes and good meals to eat. With

all your heart, thank God and your parents. Many people on this earth suffer from hunger and cold because they are very poor or there is war in their country. Take these good things from God's hand and don't be dissatisfied or grumpy if something doesn't quite suit your taste. Say "thank you" anyway, since we don't have this good life just because we are somehow better. It all comes from the gracious hand of God.

Look at the flowers in the field that are blooming in honor of their Creator, each one according to its kind. You can enjoy all this beauty and rejoice without always thinking only of yourself or comparing yourself to other children: "Do I have the most beautiful dress, the best bicycle?" etc. Please remember that it is not our outward appearance that makes us pleasing to God and man but what we have in our hearts and how we treat other people. Of course, you should also pay attention to keeping your clothes clean and neat. But above all, radiate love and kindness. Let Jesus give that to you.

*Helene Rotfuss*

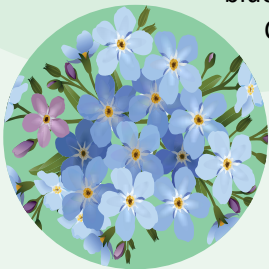
## Is It A Good Secret?

It's warm and summery outside today, and Laura has her friend Mari over for a visit. Mrs. Werner taught the children a new game she used to play as a child. The game is called "Secret." It involves digging a deep hole in the ground about the size of a hand, using a small shovel. Green leaves are placed at the bottom of the hollow so the soil is nicely covered. Then, colorful meadow flowers are arranged in various patterns on this green bed, according to your taste and imagination. And finally, this work of art is covered from above with a large leaf from a plant. Only the person who built the "secret" knows how beautiful it looks under the cover of the leaf. For everyone else, this treasure remains hidden.



Laura and Mari enjoyed building their "secrets." The flower patterns turned out beautifully. Mrs. Werner also showed the children the different meadow flowers and told them how God had precisely counted the petals of the flowers. The yellow buttercups,

blue forget-me-nots, and blue-violet Canterbury bells always have five petals, the yellow marigolds usually have 13, and the smaller white daisies have 34. In this way, the children learned to recognize some flowers by name and appearance.



Later, they had cold lemonade and lemon cake—it tasted so good! The children had a lot to talk about, and Mrs. Werner listened. Then she asked, "What do you think: Are there only good secrets? And what is the right way to deal with secrets?" After some thought, Laura said, "I think there are good and bad secrets. A good secret is when I se-

cretely draw you a nice picture. A bad secret would be if I did something I shouldn't do and didn't make it right."

Mom was pleased that Laura understood. She said it was very important not to keep bad secrets. If something happens, it should immediately be corrected with God and man. Then she said that there could also be more beautiful secrets—for example, prayer or a good deed without bragging about it to others. God sees and hears even in secret places and blesses what is done according to His will.



Questions:

- What other beautiful secrets are there?
- What should be done if there is a bad secret?
- For which good secrets do you need parental consent beforehand?

*Helene Rotfuss*

### Memory Box:

*"For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light"*

(Mark 4: 22).



# Great ENDURANCE

*At the end of July, the Summer Olympic Games will begin in Paris. The road to Olympic gold is one that requires training, self-discipline, and sacrifice. These athletes “do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown” (1 Corinthians 9: 25). May we run our spiritual race with great endurance and keep focused on the crown that awaits us!*

When I was younger, I wanted to run a marathon. A marathon is a race of more than 26 miles or about 42 kilometers. Those who run these races need endurance. In the Boston Marathon, there is a place called “heartbreak hill.” It is close to the end of the race and is a test of the runners, whether they will give up or keep on. I marvel at the endurance of those who can run a marathon. Recently, I came upon the verse in 2 Corinthians 6 where Paul writes, “Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance” (2 Corinthians 6: 4, NIV).

As I thought and prayed about these words, I was reminded that great patience and endurance is needed in the lives of many Christians. I think of a man who went blind when he was about forty years old. When I met him, he had been blind for about ten years, but he was grateful for God’s help in his life. He took what was given to him in life, and he is still serving God. This man, this follower of Jesus, models “great endurance.” I met a lady many years ago who had polio. She had been in an iron lung for years. Before her sickness, she was married and had two girls. Now, in her sickness, she was all alone. This Christian lady did not complain. She had come to terms with her situation in life, and even after thirty-five years in her condition, she walked with the Lord. I have met



many other Christians with such exemplary patience, and I am encouraged by their examples.

What I have realized is that “great endurance” is something we all may require in our walk with the Lord. Life may not go as we wish it would. There are crosses to bear, sicknesses and long-term problems we must deal with. This may require great patience and endurance. When things come up, we have choices to make. We can blame God and become angry at Him and walk away from Him. We can push God out of our lives and attempt to live on without Him. We can also escape into alcohol or drugs and live life that way. We can even quit and decide that life is not worth living and end it.

Or we can decide to walk with God and go to Him as our source of strength and develop “great endurance.” The prophet Isaiah tells us, “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak” (Isaiah 40: 29, NIV). This power only comes from our heavenly Father, Who has promised to give us exactly what we need.

There may come times in our lives when we need a lot of patience and endurance. It is therefore important that we practice and develop these in our daily challenges—for example, when we are struck by a short-term illness or have to deal with a difficult situation. Everything can contribute to developing our stamina.

After observing and talking to those who have great endurance, I think there are lessons we can learn from them:

1) Take one day at a time. This is one comment that I have heard from these amazing people. Do not

look too far into the future but take one day at a time.

2) Ask for strength from God on a regular, daily basis. Being in a tough place requires much strength from God as there are many attacks from Satan, and the road to heaven can also be very steep.

3) Never consider giving up. As I have spoken with these people, they know that the end will come. Heaven is waiting for them, but they do not know how long the suffering will be. It is therefore important to focus on finishing and to never give up.

How are you doing? Are you still following Jesus Christ? Have you faced tough issues in life where “great endurance” is needed? There are things that come our way that we would never have thought of or ever asked for. Yet we need to deal with them. In the Bible, we are given promises for enough grace and strength for each day. I am very grateful for the example of those who have “great endurance.” As I observe them, as I stand at their bedside, or as I talk with them, I thank God for them. It is these people who patiently endure in their tribulations and who encourage us to follow Jesus Christ.

As we observe them, let’s not forget to pray for them. They have been put into a special place to model “great endurance.” They need our prayers, our understanding, and our support; they also need our encouraging visits to brighten their day. Please remember that in the future, you or I may also be called to be a person of “great endurance.”

*Sieg Schuler, Calgary (CA)*

# The Missing Medication



*The writer of an old letter speaks of those who have no special relationship with God and yet states, “Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1: 19–20). Unfortunately, the vast majority of people have forgotten to understand God’s love for their souls and to ask about Him.*

**O**n a Friday in mid-April 2024, I was wheeled into the operating room at 8:00 am. Six hours later, the heart surgery was complete. This was followed by several days in the ICU, in the critical care unit, and then one day in the regular ward before I was discharged on the sixth day after the operation. The fol-

lowing day, I saw my family doctor, who put together a medication plan based on the information received from the hospital. That was yesterday. Today is my second day at home, and I am enjoying the strength, love, and grace of God. (Yes, of course I’m still rather weak . . .)

Already in the clinic, one thought had occupied my mind. During the day, I was probably given 10 to 15 different medications. Now at home, there were yet ten medications. This morning as I lay pensively in bed, I went through the list in my mind. Suddenly I was faced with the question: But which medication is the trigger for my body to heal? Because when I look at the whole list, it’s always medication for some particular condition. For high blood pressure, for blood thinning, for . . .

The medication that triggers healing in my body is definitely missing from the list. This would actually be

the most important medication. What good are all the tablets for various problems if no tablet triggers and promotes healing? What I have experienced in the last few days is something I could never have imagined before. In the first 24 hours after the operation, it was possible to recognize a human body; with great effort it was even possible to penetrate my consciousness. Yet, I was completely helpless, disoriented, and unable to do anything of my own volition. On the fourth day, I was already able to walk short distances without any help. Mind and body had found each other again, and on the fifth day there was already talk of me being discharged.

We grew up with the natural law of cause and effect. Hence my question to you: Where is the drug that propelled my healing in such a spectacular time?

You may have quite different answers to this question. But surely, we all come to the point: God has created the body so wonderfully, has given it life and everything that sustains it, and transforms even catastrophes back into health. Medicine reckons with this fact. But don't we realize that the ultimate source is really God?

Before my own operation, the surgeon told me that he always experiences a miracle during such operations. After the work has been completed, the heart is removed from the heart-lung machine, and repeatedly they experience how the previously silent heart begins to beat by itself. I heard the amazement in this experienced doctor's voice.

Dear Reader, let me take you on a little tour. You see an operating table in a university hospital with a line of doctors standing around it. They have the most modern technology, all the knowledge of our time, all the necessary therapeutic and medical aids at their disposal. The best experts work intensively and perform heart surgery. The narrowed part of an artery is replaced by a vein from the leg—a classic bypass.

Despite optimal conditions, this heart does not start working again. It simply remains silent. All humanly conceivable and medically feasible measures

are initiated. The struggle lasts for hours until finally everyone at the table and all observers know: This heart will never beat again.

I withheld a detail from you: It was about the body of a person who had died hours earlier. All the available medication and technical support won't help here. Dead remains dead. Of course, no doctor would expect life to return to the body through surgery and medication. Life comes from God alone. He alone can give and preserve it.

God has given you life and health. Completely undeserved. It is He alone who has preserved your life up to this moment, even if you have to deal with some illnesses and weaknesses. Even if you fight against the eternal God, reject, and insult Him, you owe your existence to His mercy and grace alone.

The introductory words Paul writes to the Romans place each and every one of us in a position of responsibility before God. God expects you to seek Him. He wants to give your soul eternal life and allow your body to share in the blessing. You should experience that all your own experimentation or search for meaning, asceticism, or senseless consumption do not heal the soul, and do not take away fear. Happiness only seems to take place in the lives of others. On the contrary, things become darker and more hopeless.

Stop. Help is available for you. The missing medicine is my beloved Savior. He left heaven to open the way to joy, happiness, and fulfillment for people like you and me. He has come to open up a life with eternal prospects for us. Please read John 3: 1–16 and Matthew 11: 28–30.

Before I return to my bed, let me ask you in conclusion: Don't you wish to seek this physician and God today? As you read these lines, He has seen and observed you. He has read all the thoughts of your heart. He also sees the deep longing and hears the cry of a hopeless soul. Come to Him. He will give you life and salvation.

*Hermann Vogt*





# I Will Be With You

## Part 7: Winter Baptism

*Salomon Weissburger (1887-1968)*

Whenever we held revival services, we would baptize afterwards any who wanted it, regardless of the season. Winter baptisms were not uncommon, and one case in particular left a clear impression on me.

It was in Georgengut, East Prussia, which is now called Jurgi and lies in modern-day Poland. The camp services we had held were greatly blessed, and not a single soul left without having found peace with God.

At the end of the services, a baptism was scheduled. The big lake nearby had already frozen over, with some people crossing the ice to get to the services and the baptisms. A strip of around 20 meters was chopped out of the ice so the water would be deep enough for the baptisms; some additional water was cleared to ensure sufficient space. Around 35 people were supposed to be baptized by Brother Reinhold Meglin and me. I started, and Brother Meglin was supposed to take over for the second half. However, I felt bad that the brother

would have to get into the cold water, so I offered to baptize the second half too. In all, I spent around half an hour in the water, but God spared me from illness. We performed the baptisms in faith, and the Lord granted us protection from illness.

There was even a case in which a sick person entered the cold water in full faith and, having been baptized according to the Lord's command, was healed before getting back out of the water. We often baptized people in the winter, and I never heard of anyone falling ill as a result. Seeing our faith and obedience, God granted us grace and held His hand over us. I am not saying this to pressure anyone to do the same, but in those times, we did not let ourselves be deterred by the cold, and God acknowledged this in a wonderful way. Praise be to God!

In 1912, I arrived in the Vistula Territory, an area in Russian-held Poland that was home to many eth-



*“Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will  
declare what He has done for my soul”*

*(Psalm 66: 16).*

nic Germans at the time. I worked there for two years, until the start of World War I. Through the brothers Schwieger and Arbeiter, a mission field opened up there, and I served in the resulting congregations. I also conducted several mission trips along the Vistula River, in places including Plock, Warsaw, and Pinino, and on both sides of the border between Russia and Germany.

We were visited by Brother Ebel, who served in the mission field in Russia. He was a man of God who brought Spirit-filled messages. Brother Ebel was a great blessing to me. He was a humble man and had the most powerful prayer life of anyone I have ever met. Compared to him, I was still a child in Christ at the time.

In 1913, in Horshchyk near Kyiv, camp services took place with Brother Ebel as the main speaker. I was able to attend, and despite my youth, Brother Ebel

insisted that I bring a message at these services. Not all older preachers share this attitude. Here in Horshchyk, nearly the entire congregation recognized the biblical truth. It was also the first time I heard a congregation praying together, all at once, out loud. It made a deep impression on me, nonetheless, I have misgivings of whether this type of communal prayer is in accordance with God’s will and Scripture (1 Corinthians 14: 31–32).

Following the services in Horshchyk, I travelled to Chernyakhiv, in the district of Zhytomyr, to Brother Jonathan Hinz. After attending camp services held in Essen over Christmas and New Year’s 1907/1908, he became a passionate advocate for God’s work in Russia and a preacher of the church of God. If I remember correctly, the first camp services in the east took place in 1908 in Chernyakhiv, where brothers Arbeiter and Doebert were serving. ■



## One of Fifty

In Genesis 18, we see how Abraham interceded for the people of Sodom. In verses 20–21, we read: “And the LORD said, ‘Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, I will go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me.’”

Then Abraham stopped and asked, “Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare *it* for the fifty righteous that were in it?” (verse 24). Now God’s Word shows us that Abraham went from 50 to 45, then to 30, 20, and down to 10 (verses 26–28).

But unfortunately, only Lot, Abraham’s nephew, with his wife and two daughters were saved in Sodom. But even this number of four was reduced to three because Lot’s wife turned against God’s command and became a pillar of salt.

My testimony: I am one of fifty!

After fleeing from the Russian army in 1945, I lived with my parents in a village in Lower Saxony, Germany. The B. family, who had been converted years before in the church of God in West Prussia lived here alongside many other refugees and held their family devotions in their home. When preacher brothers visited them from time to time, they also invited others from the village.

Immediately after 1945/46, refugees and also some local residents took advantage of this opportunity and came to the services. Many had begun questioning inwardly as a result of the terrible events of the war. The mother of this family was the most motivated and prayed for the salvation of souls. Like Abraham, she also prayed for 50 souls.

But as the economic situation improved, hunger for God’s Word dwindled. When invitations were extended, fewer and fewer people came. And when the family emigrated to Kitchener, Canada, in the early 1950s, what remained? Only one elderly woman regularly received the German version of this publication, the *Evangeliums Posaune*.

In the spring of 1962, I emigrated to Toronto, Canada. From there I wrote to my parents every week because I had promised my grandmother in particular that I would keep in touch by letter. In response to my letters, I received detailed letters from my parents about their daily chores and the like.

But my grandmother only wrote one or two sentences in each letter: “I’m praying for you . . . Why don’t you go to Kitchener to visit the B. family?”

But in Toronto I quickly made friends, got a job, was invited here and there on the weekends to go water-skiing and the like. However, my grandma’s weekly pleas finally got me to take the bus and visit the B. family in Kitchener to satisfy her.

Looking back, I have to say that it was a miracle that I found the family, because I hadn’t taken an address with me. I searched for about 2 ½ hours: it was the last road I wanted to go down, and then I wanted to turn back, preferring to spend every Saturday by the water with friends. But just before the road ended, a car reversed out of a driveway and I had to stop. A father and his son were sitting in the car. The man’s son was behind the wheel, and together they stopped, rolled down the window, and spoke to me in German: “I know you; but who are you?”

When I gave my name, I was invited into the house. I also recognized Mother B. After I was introduced, I didn’t know what was going on in her thoughts. But years later she told me, “When you stood in the doorway shortly before noon that Saturday, the Lord said to me, ‘This is one of the fifty souls you prayed for years ago from the Lord.’” She began to pray for me every day, and a little over a year later I was able to find the Lord.

Yes, I am one of fifty! Brother, sister, let us ask and plead. And if 100 or even 30 don’t come, God can still save one, two, or many souls. It is not in vain, because God’s Word confirms this: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

H. D. Nimz



# Through Many Trials

*“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”  
(1 Corinthians 15:57).*

I am so thankful for the Lord’s help so many times in my life. I grew up in Mexico and experienced the early years when, with God’s help, Brother Nimz began the services of the church of God. When we first had the house meetings, I was able to go to them with my siblings. We were blessed by the new songs, which we quickly learned and were able to sing.

One particular message Brother Elke brought remains clear in my memory. It was from Colossians 3:9–10: “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.” Those words struck me, and the Holy Spirit convicted me that the old man was still living in me. So, I prayed and found grace. After my conversion, I was also able to be bap-

tized and testify that I had died to the old man and risen to a new life.

The Lord has led me through many trials but also protected me from so many evils of this world: smoking, alcohol, etc.

Once, when I was in the hospital for 14 days, my brothers and sisters prayed for me. I survived three car accidents and a work accident where 700 kg (1,543 lb) of iron fell on me. Seven of my ribs were broken. But after three weeks I was able to work again.

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Praise be to the Lord forever! Amen!

*Peter Neufeld, Kitchener (CA)*



# Godly Love

Foremost in life is true love.  
True love—its primal source is God.  
True love—still drawing strength from above,  
While suffering upon this sod.  
Heart from heart cannot be rent  
Where Godly love is unabated.

True love so filled the Savior's heart  
That He left His home above.  
Though agony would be His part,  
He paid the price because of love.  
For our sins He died upon the cross  
So we could gain the love we once had lost.

That which was lost in paradise  
Is found again in Jesus Christ.  
He cleanses us from sin and vice;  
Through love He paid the highest price.  
Love is the crown of eternal life,  
A gift of peace after earthly strife.

Comforting the hopeless and the lost,  
Like fragrant roses from above;  
Let's do our part whate'er the cost  
Since we have tasted this great love.  
Under the wings of love we are saved,  
This love that endures beyond the grave.

This pure love is with us for all time,  
In tribulation, joy, and woe.  
We're being prepared by love sublime  
For that fair land to which we go.  
Oh, pure love, spring of eternal joy,  
Enlighten us your means to employ.

Fill us with grace and humility  
So we may love with all our hearts,  
Not only friends but enemies too.  
As Jesus taught, let's do our part!  
Sunshine from above, heavenly rays,  
Let your warmth shine in us all our days.

Eternal love, come down and fill us;  
Enflame our hearts with heaven's fire.  
If we are anxious, gently still us;  
It is God's love that we desire  
So that we may honor Him each day  
And follow Him in every way.

Love is still there in the shadow of death;  
We will not tremble nor distress.  
Filled with love even to our last breath,  
We will enter glory, we are blessed.  
Oh let us strive for this gift from above.  
The highest worth in life is true love.

*Amalie Treyde*

