

## The ingredients to build our love for God Pt 2 Spend time

This is our second teaching on the necessary ingredients to build our love for God. In our first study we covered three points- (I) If a person does not know the LORD they will never hear His voice, (ii) Israel were to love the LORD their God with all their heart and soul, (iii) the prophets were sent to remind Israel of God's mighty works that they would know that He is the LORD. In this study we will cover three additional points- (I) pray without ceasing, (ii) prayer and fasting, (iii) receive the word with all readiness of mind and search the scriptures daily.

To establish a little more detail on our three points we search the scriptures using the words: pray, fast, read and fervent.

### 1. Pray without ceasing

"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thes.5: 17). See also 2 Tim.1: 3, 1 Thes.1: 3 & 2: 13.

Paul prayer without ceasing for his brethren- Rom.1: 9- "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers".

Fervently labouring for the brethren in pray

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God" (Col.4: 12).

Such prayers are effectual and of a righteous man, and they will avail much

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Jam.5: 16).

Prayer can include crying unto the Lord - note - David cried unto God daily

"Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily" (Ps.86: 3).

Jesus is our example: He was one with the Father yet He still spent time in prayer

[36] Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

[39] And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

[40] And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? (Matt.26: 36, 39, 40).

The only ingredient that builds love and is carried out fervently- according scripture-- is prayer.

According to the scriptures prayer is also to be carried out without ceasing

### 2. Prayer and fasting

"And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven" (Neh.1: 4).

Q What does fasting do?

A It forces us to turn to the LORD, afflict ourselves and seek Him- Ezra 8:21- "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way..."- CF- Joel 2:12- "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting..." .

Q What is an acceptable day of fasting to the Lord?

A "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?" (Is.58: 6).

### 3. Receive the word with all readiness of mind and search the scriptures daily.

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Jesus rebuked the leaders of Israel for them never having read the scriptures- Matt.21: 42-“Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?”  
See also Mark 12:10

In the OT they read the words of the law -  
"And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words" (Jer.51: 61).

Eat and drink spiritual food  
[3] And did all eat the same spiritual meat;  
[4] And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ (1 Cor.10: 3-4).

Let the word of Christ dwell in you- teaching and admonishing one another  
“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col.3: 16)

#### Illustration

Relationships never get off the ground if there is little or no communication between two people.

If a spark does ignite between a man and a woman, it will always struggle to grow if they do not talk, and listen to one another.

If a couple get married intimacy will grow when communication is strong- communication where they both talk, both listen and bear the burdens of the other.

I have been in a family environment where the husband and wife's relationship has deteriorated so far that they either bark at each other, grunt to each other or were silent: love had long dried up.

#### Questions

- i) How does a Muslim, Buddhist, or Hindu build love for their god when their gods are deaf, dumb and mutt?
- ii) If one of the ingredients for love is time- and we are to love the Lord with all of our heart, more than our father or mother (Matt.10: 27), then how does our love impact the time we are prepared to give to the Lord?

#### Answers from the scriptures

i) Given that the Muslim god, Buddha and the 300,000 Hindu gods are idols, then praying to them would be like praying to a tree stump, or a statue of Mary- they are deaf, dumb and blind

“For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens” (Ps.96: 5).CF- 1 Kings 18:26-28-

[26] And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

[27] And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

[28] And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

They simply are unable to love their god, just as they are unable to love a piece of timber.

ii) When we prioritise our time, the Lord is at the top of our list. We do not just nod our head and agree with spending time with Him, in pray and reading His word, but rather, we **make it** a priority.

We do not say, I was too busy to spend time with the Lord this morning, this afternoon, or in the evening- to do so is to love the LORD less than others in our life- wife, husband, father or mother.

Time is a common love language that applies to friendships, marriages, and our time with the LORD. The Lord asks that we love Him with all of our heart, soul and mind. If you love Him to that extent then you will desire to allocate time, you will do what ever it takes to spend time in His word and in prayer.

Let us all be fervent in prayer, pray without ceasing, reading His word each day and in doing so our love will grow, our relationship will develop. We will involve Him in more and more decisions that we make: should I Father? what is thy will? There is no detail too small to share with the Lord. Always build on your time with the Lord, never settle for less, and your love for Him will strengthen. Amen!