

The Holy Spirit and Love

There is no question that the qualities found in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) are manifestations of the first one listed. Love. This is beautifully described in the following by R.C. Stedman, in *Supreme Priority*:

Joy is love enjoying itself.

Peace is love resting.

Patience is love waiting.

Kindness is love reacting.

Generosity is love choosing.

Faithfulness is love keeping its word.

Gentleness is love empathizing.

Self-control is love resisting temptation.

As we once again approach the season of Christmas, we are reminded of the love of God which came down in the birth of Jesus. God desired to be with us in a manner never before realized. Immanuel, God with us in human form! Presence - revealing a love that would be fully shown in the sacrificial death and resurrection of God the Son that would save us and enable us to become more like Jesus.

Jesus Christ was born to die. Allow that truth to settle in. Jesus said, **“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”** (John 15:13) Jesus went on to say, **“I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.”** (John 10:10b) That abundance comes not in the accumulation of things but rather in the life of love we are privileged to show out of devotion to God and to our neighbor. The power to do so comes from the flame of love which is the Spirit!

Let’s be reminded of what love looks like. The Apostle Paul clearly states that love is not a feeling but doing. (1 Corinthians 13) We “do” love when we are patient, kind, not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude, when we do not insist on our own way, when we are not irritable or resentful and do not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rather rejoice in the truth. This love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never, ever fails. Only the power of the Holy Spirit can cause us to love like that. Not to feel but to do love like that!