

The Ingredient of Love “ Bloody Love”

This book ¹ on faith is meant to identify the proper ingredients so that your faith may be real, vital, and operative and show results for your life, for those in your realm of influence and for the Kingdom of God. We need to add the proper ingredients to our faith walk. This in no way is meant to minimize the sovereignty of God in our lives. Rather it is meant to put us on His path, His predestined abundant life for us.

Many sincere Christians around the world admit that they are disappointed in their walk of faith. They say, “This faith stuff just does not work.” Even those critics outside of Christianity are quick to point out the failures.

Peter lists many vital ingredients to faith.

We will discuss these ingredients and others in this book.

2 Peter 1:2-11 says,

2 “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

*7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness **love.***

8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Notice in the above Scripture:

1. God gives us everything we need for life and godliness by knowing Him.

¹ **Living By Faith In A Broken World** by Larry Chkoreff

2. His exceedingly great and precious promises are the containers for everything we need. As I pointed out in chapter 1, we receive His promises, as we are intimate with Him, in the form of a seed that is planted in our hearts. That is the beginning of faith.

3. Peter gives us many of the needed ingredients to add to this process of faith.

Author Dallas Willard wrote about ingredients in his book The Great Omission:²

If your neighbor is having trouble with his automobile, you might think he just got a lemon [a defective automobile]. And you might be right. But if you found that he was supplementing his gasoline with a quart of water now and then, you would not blame the car or its maker for it not running, or for running in fits and starts. You would say that the car was not built to work under the conditions imposed by the owner. And you would certainly advise him to put only the appropriate kind of fuel in the tank. After some restorative work, perhaps the car would then run fine.

This chapter discusses the ingredient of love.

Galatians 5:6 says,

6 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a says,

1 “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails...”

Faith will only operate in people who allow Jesus to live His love life through them.

If God has spoken and you have heard His voice, then the promise of God is in your heart, the seed has been planted. However, the seed will only work in a “good heart, good ground.” What is good? Love is the ground that will allow the seed to grow.

² Willard, Dallas. The Great Omission, Harper Collins, New York, NY, 2006.

In Mark chapter 4, in the Parable of the Sower, Jesus points out that Satan's main task is to steal the Word of God, the seed, that He, Jesus, has planted in your heart. Satan can only steal the seed, the Word, the promise of God, by the limited means that Jesus points out in the Parable. Those means have to do with the "ground," or the character of the person in whom the seed has been sown. Those are people whose hearts are hard, or who cannot bear up against persecution and tribulation, or who are seeking the pleasures of the world. On the positive side, I submit that the "good ground," or the ground in which the seed will bear fruit, is that person who is living out the character of love, or the character of Jesus.

Actually, all the other ingredients that we have and will discuss can fall under the category of love because they are attributes of Jesus, Whose name is love.

Obviously none of us are as perfect as Jesus; however, when we allow the Word of God to convict us of our sin, an amazing thing happens as we repent and confess. We are cleansed and put into the same condition of Jesus, just as if we never sinned.

Satan can find nothing in such a person.

The following is a quote from The Joyful Heart, Daily Meditations by Watchman Nee, March 4.³

"The prince of the world cometh: and he hath nothing in me." John 14:30.

When man was tempted and fell, God cursed the tempter. "Upon thy belly shalt thou go," he said, "and dust shalt thou eat." The sphere thus allocated to Satan was the earth, and his food was to be the very substance of which man had been made. Satan had gained a clear title to all that man had become by turning from God. He has acquired "squatter's rights" in the old creation.

Praise be to God that, through Christ, Satan has now no rights in us. God the Redeemer met the situation by taking the old creation out of the way at Calvary and providing in Christ a new creation. So God has his Man. There is a Man who, even while he was on the earth, could affirm that the prince of this world had no claims upon him whatever. And this Man is now on the throne, guaranteeing that Satan has no claims upon us either, since we have been redeemed. The Son of Man was glorified so that we, the many sons, may also be brought to glory.

Good news! Love is a fruit inserted inside of us, that is grace. It is Christ in us loving others.

Galatians 5:22-23 says,

22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

Fear and love are connected.

³ Nee, Watchman. The Joyful Heart, Daily Meditations, Tyndale House Publishers. Wheaton, IL, 1978, March 4th page.

1 John 4:18 says that perfect love casts out all fear. How do we get the love that casts out all fear and causes faith to operate? Sacrifice. Love somebody that you find impossible to love. That will “ground” you in love.

1 John 4:7-12 (Amplified Bible) says,

7 *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is (springs) from God; and he who loves [his fellowmen] is begotten (born) of God and is coming [progressively] to know and understand God [to perceive and recognize and get a better and clearer knowledge of Him].*

8 *He who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for God is love.*

9 *In this the love of God was made manifest (displayed) where we are concerned: in that God sent His Son, the only begotten or unique [Son], into the world so that we might live through Him.”*

[Verses 9 and 10 indicates that He loved us through His cross.]

10 *“In this is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins.*

11 *Beloved, if God loved us so [very much], we also ought to love one another.*

12 *No man has at any time [yet] seen God. But if we love one another, God abides (lives and remains) in us and His love (that love which is essentially His) is brought to completion (to its full maturity, runs its full course, is perfected) in us!”*

Verse 12 says that His love in us is perfected by our acts of loving others. The only way we can love others is by taking up our cross. That may simply mean becoming unselfish, or it may mean forgiving others who have hurt us, even our enemies.

When we take up our cross, the remnant of our old nature is put away, including fear. When all that is left remaining in us is Jesus’ nature, fear no longer can haunt you.

1 John 4:13-18 (Amplified Bible) says,

13 *“By this we come to know (perceive, recognize, and understand) that we abide (live and remain) in Him and He in us: because He has given (imparted) to us of His [Holy] Spirit.*

14 *And [besides] we ourselves have seen (have deliberately and steadfastly contemplated) and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son [as the] Savior of the world.*

15 *Anyone who confesses (acknowledges, owns) that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides (lives, makes His home) in him and he [abides, lives, makes his home] in God.*

16 *And we know (understand, recognize, are conscious of, by observation and by experience) and believe (adhere to and put faith in and rely on) the love God cherishes for us. God is love, and he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in God, and God dwells and continues in him.*

17 In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him], because as He is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love [dread does not exist], but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love [is not yet grown into love's complete perfection]."

Caution! We have a choice. What is our responsibility?

Ephesians 3:17-19 says if we are rooted in love, then we can experience His real love, beyond mere knowledge. We can only give love to God and others after we have experienced His love. It is a continuous process. As we experience God's love and respond to Him and others with that same love, we become grounded.

Ephesians 3:17-19 says,

17 "...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height —

19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Richard Wurmbrand, founder of The Voice of the Martyrs, said that love is spelled, s-a-c-r-i-f-i-c-e.

If love, Jesus, lives in us, and it is Him in us that lives the love life, then our only task is to take up our cross. It is called sacrifice. I call it "bloody love."

Abandonment.

If we are to become just like Christ, then we also must be abandoned to the Father. We must line up with the thoughts and plans of God so closely that we appear to be "at one" with him, just as a married couple, deeply abandoned to each other, appear to live as one. When we are abandoned to God we walk so closely with Him that other just see and feel His love.

Matthew 25:31-46,

"31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 *'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;*

36 *'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*

37 *"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?"*

38 *'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?"*

39 *'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

40 *"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

41 *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:*

42 *'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;*

43 *'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'*

44 *"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'*

45 *"Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'*

46 *"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'"*

While I do not believe that Jesus was making our salvation dependent upon how we love others, I do believe that He was saying that if He lives inside of us we would indeed love others.