

WATCHMAN CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MOVEMENT
2024 FIRST FRUIT FASTING EXERCISE Jan.22 – Feb 11. 2024
(Day 9)

Theme: JUMPING IN THE JOY OF JUBILEE
Texts: Ps.4:3-8; 32:11; 126:1-6
Topic: LIVING IN LOVE
Sub-Texts: Jn.13:34,35; Gal.5:22-23

As we cruise through the middle third of our exercise, we shall be exploring the fruit (product) of the Spirit. As earlier stated, the exercise is designed to furnish participants with spiritual knowledge so that there could be wealth in their chambers (Pro.24:4,5; Jn. 8:32).

Our texts reveal that Love is a cardinal characteristic of discipleship and a primary fruit of the Spirit. We shall proceed to analyze love, and show its development.

Love (agape) is the attitude of God towards men known only from the actions it prompts (Rom.5:8; Jn.3:16; 1Jn.4:9,10). It is not drawn out by any excellency in its objects but the exercise of the divine will in deliberate choice made without assignable cause except that which lies in the nature of God Himself (Deut.7:7,8).

Christian love has God as its primary object and expresses itself in implicit obedience to His commandment. (Jn.14:15,21,23; 15:10; 1Jn.2:5; 5:3; 2Jn. 6).

It is not an impulse from the feelings as it does not always run with natural inclination neither does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered.

It is an affection generated on the principle of obedience to divine injunctions (Lev.19:18; Matt.22:29; Jn.13:34,35; Gal.6:9,10; Heb.10:24).

It seeks the welfare of all (Rom.15:2) and works no ill to any (Rom.13:8-10); seeking opportunity to do good to all men especially towards members of the household of faith (Gal.6:10).

It can be ignited through observation (Heb.10:24) and developed through practice (1Jn.4:18; cp. Gal.6:9,10; Lk.10:29-37).

It is an attitude and so reflects in character (1Cor.13:4-7). It has no room for self-will i.e. self-pleasing attitude.

Christian love is therefore the exercise of the will in deliberate choice not to thrive on sentiments or the feeling of carnal impulses, but rather implicitly obey the Lord's injunctions (Eph.5:25; Heb.10:24; 2Cor.8:7).

The grace that follows this obedience can grow, if tended/maintained, or diminish, if ignored (Rev.2:1-4; Matt.24:12).

The maintenance is by fanning the ambers of love through: *deliberate acts of love* (Heb. 10:24, 2Cor.8:7,11; 9:7-9,11), *abstinence from sin* which is toxic to this nature of God (1Jn.4:8,16; Isa.59:2), regular fellowship with the Word and Holy Spirit (Pro.27:17; Jn. 14:23, 15:4).

Always remember that love is the gateway to other products of the Spirit , therefore, all must be done to grow our love.

It is the indisputable evidence and key to successful Christian living (Jn. 13:34, 35, 1Jn.3:16).

Living in love will guarantee joy on earth and jubilation that will last for eternity.