



Dear Precious Friend,

June-July, 2015

The Missing Component

Did God love Adam more before the fall than after? Did He withhold some of His love after Adam sinned and fell short of the glory of God? Does God love you more now that you are saved and sanctified than when you were a sinner? The answer to these questions is critical because it has to do with how we perceive and receive God's love and how we in turn will love and treat one another.

Recently I have been ministering and praying for an Israeli sister in the Lord whose backslidden husband committed adultery, left her with 4 children, including one with down syndrome, and then married the adulteress. She is very wounded, to say the least. The other day, I was encouraging and praying for her on the phone, when I suddenly felt a strong urge to hang up, run to her and take her in my arms to comfort her as she wept. There was a tangible quickening in my emotions that I couldn't resist!

Beloved saint, the answer to all the questions above is an emphatic NO! God loved Adam just as much after he sinned because the essential driving force in God's love is COMPASSION! The emotion that I tangibly felt that compelled me to hang up the phone to run to my wounded weeping sister was compassion. Compassion compels us to run to a genuine need. That's why the father ran to his prodigal son, and why the Lord called out to Adam who in his disobedience, had just lost everything.

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, **his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran,** and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Luke 15:20

If we fail to understand how much God loved and succored Adam after the fall, we will end up withholding godly compassion from one another. It was God's compassion that compelled Him to slay an animal to cover the first couple, which previewed Yeshua's own future sacrifice for man. God's love never changes and never diminishes, even when He is disciplining His children. He has pity on the weakest and least of His creatures. His response to man's sin and failure was to empty Himself of His own glory, cross the great chasm between heaven and earth to perform His greatest act of compassion for humanity.

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:6-8*

In today's world, compassion is quickly disappearing. Old people are no longer cared for with dignity. The sick and dying are cast aside. Women are aborting the life in their womb. Yet God declares that compassion is the most defining expression of His love.

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yes, they may forget, yet I will not forget you. *Isaiah 49:15*

God declares that His love is not in us when we withhold compassion from one another.

But whoever has this world's good, and sees his brother have need, and shuts up his bowels of compassion from him, how does the love of God dwell in him? *I John 3:17*

It was when Jesus was moved with compassion, that He healed the sick, cast out demons and raised the dead! Could it be that we are not seeing the greater miracles that He promised, not because we are lacking in faith or power, but because we are shutting up our bowels of compassion!? As the physical body gets sick without the bowels moving, so does God's mystical body get sick because our bowels of compassion are not functioning like Jesus.

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. *Mathew 14:14*

And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said this is one of the Hebrews' children. *Exodus 2:6*

In Hebrew, compassion (*châmal*) has to do with having pity and sparing someone's life. When Pharaoh's daughter saw the baby Moses crying, her bowels of compassion were so moved for him that she not only spared his life, but took him and raised him as her own son. Compassion acts for the sake of the one in need until he is restored to wholeness!

One of the Greek words for compassion (*splagchnizomai*) has to do with our bowels moving. There is a striking parallel between the spiritual and natural here. Our bowels move to cleanse, protect and keep our body healthy and alive. Similarly, when our bowels of compassion move, it helps to restore the weak and needy around us.

Compassion is the major component and driving force behind God's perfect love! Without it, love is stagnant, cerebral and mechanical. Another word in Greek for compassion (*sumpatheō*) has to do with sharing in the feelings of the other, whether it be joy or sorrow. It moves us to leave our own comfort and pleasure zone in order to respond to the joy or sorrow in another. Compassion makes love other centered instead of self-centered.

As the body of Christ, when we fail to reach out to the weak and the wretched, preferring to focus on strength, power and gifts, we begin to lose the compassion of God and we become flawed in our ability to demonstrate the authentic love of Christ, not only to one

another, but to the world. Without compassion, "love" becomes performance based, with its focus on achievement rather than on the needs of others around us. Genuine compassion removes performance and makes our love real, even if it looks and feels messy at times.

I Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Have we been shutting up our bowels of compassionate love from one another, seeing one another's failures, flaws, weaknesses and sins as a burden and hindrance to our own achievements? Are our ministries more like well-functioning machines rather than the organic and sympathetic body whose bowels were created to move in godly compassion?

God's power is perfected in weakness, not strength. His power flows through compassion. What we are missing in the church is not more power, but more compassion.

Compassion in Action:

God loves compassion. Today I felt compelled to ask an elderly lady in the street about her legs as she leaned on her walker. She told me how she fell, broke her hip and had an operation. When I asked if I could pray for her in the Name of Yeshua, she said yes! After I prayed, she said, "Jesus was a Jew! He did good things." I began to share more and gave her the New Testament. We hugged and she asked where I lived. I told her to visit me. She told me her pain was gone and she happily went on her way with her New Testament!

In His Great Compassion,

Greta