

**MEETING GOD'S NEED  
AND PRESENT NEEDS IN THE LORD'S RECOVERY**

(Friday—Evening Session)

Message Three

**The Need to Develop Our Faith in the Lord and Our Love for Him**

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 1:8; Gal. 5:6; 3:2; Eph. 6:23;  
Heb. 12:2a; Rom. 5:5; 8:39; 1 John 4:8, 16

- I. We need to develop and perfect our faith in the Lord and our love for Him the One whom we have not seen—1 Pet. 1:8; Heb. 12:2a; 1 John 2:5; 4:12, 17-18:**
- A. Jesus Christ, “whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory”—1 Pet. 1:8:
1. Although we have never seen the Lord Jesus, we love Him; at present we cannot see Him, yet we believe in Him—v. 8:
    - a. It is a wonder and a mystery that the believers love One whom they have not seen.
    - b. We love Him whom we have not seen because of believing, that is, because of the faith that has been infused into us through our hearing of the living word—Gal. 3:2.
  2. The believers “exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory”—1 Pet. 1:8:
    - a. We exult with a joy that is immersed in glory.
    - b. This joy is immersed in the Lord as glory; thus, it is full of the expression of the Lord—2 Cor. 3:18.
  3. By believing into the Lord and loving Him, we obtain great joy.
  4. The normal condition of a Christian is to “exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory”—1 Pet. 1:8.
- B. “Faith avails, operating through love”—Gal. 5:6:
1. Living faith is active; it operates through love.
  2. Faith receives the Spirit of life; thus, it is full of power—3:2.
  3. Faith operates through love to fulfill God’s purpose, that is, to complete the sonship of God for His corporate expression—the Body of Christ—4:3-5; Rom. 12:4-5.
  4. Love is related to our appreciation of Christ—Eph. 3:8, 17-18; Col. 2:2:
    - a. Without such an appreciation, faith cannot operate—Gal. 5:6.
    - b. The hearing of faith awakens our loving appreciation—Rom. 10:17; Gal. 3:2, 5.
    - c. The more we love the Lord, the more faith operates to bring us into the riches of the all-inclusive Spirit—v. 14; Eph. 3:8; Phil. 1:19.
- C. “Peace to the brothers and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”—Eph. 6:23:
1. Love with faith is the means by which we partake of and experience Christ—1 Tim. 1:14.
  2. We need faith as a match and support for our love—Titus 3:15.

**II. “Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith”—Heb. 12:2a:**

- A. Faith and love are two inseparable, excellent virtues of the believers in Christ—1 Tim. 1:14; 2 Tim. 1:13; Titus 3:15; Gal. 5:6:
  - 1. Through faith we receive the Lord, and through love we enjoy the Lord whom we have received—John 1:12; 14:21; 21:15-17.
  - 2. By faith we receive the Lord and therefore please God; by love we enjoy the Lord and thereby keep His word—Heb. 11:6; John 14:23.
  - 3. By faith we receive and enjoy the divine life that is revealed and ministered to us in the Gospel of John; by love we love the Lord and those who belong to Him—3:16, 36; 20:31; 21:15-17; 13:34-35.
- B. Faith is for appreciating, substantiating, and receiving the unlimited riches of the Triune God—1:12; Eph. 3:16-17a:
  - 1. Faith is given to us by God so that by it we may receive Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God, and thereby enter into the Triune God and be joined to Him as one, having Him as our life, life supply, and everything—2 Pet. 1:1.
  - 2. By faith in the Lord, we receive the forgiveness of sins and eternal life—Acts 10:43; John 3:16.
  - 3. When we believe in the Lord, we believe *into* Him—v. 15:
    - a. By believing into Him, we enter into Him to be one with Him, to partake of Him, and to participate in all that He has accomplished for us.
    - b. By believing into Him, we are identified with Him in all that He is and in all that He has passed through, accomplished, attained, and obtained—1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 2:5-6; Col. 3:1.
- C. Love is for experiencing, enjoying, and living out the immeasurably rich Triune God—Mark 12:30; 2 Cor. 13:14:
  - 1. Love issues out of faith and enables us to live out all the riches of the Triune God in Christ with those who have believed into Christ with us in order that the Triune God may have a glorious corporate expression—Eph. 3:19-21.
  - 2. Love is for the believers to minister and transmit the Triune God to their fellow believers so that all the believers may love one another with divine, transcendent love and live a corporate life in Christ—Rom. 12:4-5, 10.
  - 3. Our love for the Lord must be absolute—Matt. 10:37; 1 John 2:15; Rev. 12:11.
  - 4. To give the Lord the first place in all things is to love Him with the first love, the best love—Col. 1:18; Rev. 2:4.
  - 5. “To love God means to set our entire being—spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30)—absolutely on Him, that is, to let our entire being be occupied by Him and lost in Him, so that He becomes everything to us and we are one with Him practically in our daily life”—1 Cor. 2:9, footnote 3.

**III. “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us”—Rom. 5:5:**

- A. God has poured out His love in our hearts with the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us, as the motivating power within us, that we may more than conquer in all our tribulations—v. 5; 8:39.

- B. The love of God is God Himself—1 John 4:8, 16.
- C. God as love is the divine essence that has been poured out in our hearts—Rom. 5:5:
  - 1. The pouring out of the love of God in our hearts is a matter of the essence of God.
  - 2. Because we have been regenerated, we have love as the nature of God's essence within us.
  - 3. As believers, deep in our hearts we have something of the divine essence, and this is God the Father in His love.
- D. Because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts, the heart of every believer in Christ is a heart of love—Eph. 3:17.
- E. In our experience and enjoyment of God as the Father in His love, we experience and enjoy the dispensing of love as the nature of God's essence into our hearts—Rom. 5:5, 8; 8:35, 39; 15:30; 2 Cor. 13:14.

**Excerpts from the Ministry:**

**FAITH IN TITUS 3:15**

**“All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in faith. Grace be with you all” (v. 15).**

*Faith* here refers to subjective faith, the act of our believing, which brings us into an organic union with the Lord (John 3:15; Gal. 3:26) and operates through love (Gal. 5:6). It is in the element and operation of this faith that the saints who were one with the Lord in His concern loved the suffering and faithful apostle.

Faith and love are two inseparable, excellent virtues of the believers in Christ. Faith is given to us by God (note 1<sup>5</sup> in 2 Pet. 1) that by it we may receive Christ (John 1:12), the embodiment of the Triune God (Col. 2:9), and thereby enter into the Triune God and be joined to Him as one, having Him as our life, life supply, and everything. Love issues out of such a wonderful faith and enables us to live out all the riches of the Triune God in Christ with those who have believed into Christ with us, that the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—may have a glorious expression. Faith is for appreciating, substantiating, and receiving the unlimited riches of the Triune God; love is for experiencing, enjoying, and living out the immeasurably rich Triune God. Faith is for the believers to be joined to the Triune God, who is everything to them; love is for the believers to minister and transmit the Triune God to their fellow believers so that, in such a wonderful and powerful faith, all the believers may love one another with divine, transcendent love and live a corporate life in Christ. In this way the Body of Christ is realized and the processed Triune God is expressed today on the earth in the all-inclusive Christ through the immeasurable life-giving Spirit.

The Epistle to Titus is the conclusion of the three books, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, and it concludes with the wonderful faith and the super-excellent love. This implies that, in the current of the church's degradation, in order to be able to effectively stand firm and overcome the downward trend and factor in the church, this wonderful faith and this super-excellent love are indispensable. We should not walk by sight or care for the outward situation. Rather, in this wonderful faith we should enjoy its source, which is the Triune God, to whom we have been joined through this faith, and by this super-excellent love of the Triune God we should love Him and all those who belong to Him. Only in this way can we become, in the current of the church's degradation, the overcomers whom the Lord is calling and is desiring to obtain in Revelation 2 and 3.