

1Jo 4:7-8 *“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. v8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love”*. If this were the only thing that I was to write in this newsletter, I would have accomplished what God would have me say to you.

What more can I say? This says it all! God is Love. Over the past few months there have been circumstances in my life where people have appreciated me and told me so by saying you and your wife are great, I am not blowing my own trumpet here, I am trying to get a message across. I have watched many videos, read a couple of different books and God has been majorly speaking to me about this thing, loving others.

I first got saved when I was 15 and the first church I entered was a full Gospel church at Birkdale, it was a Sunday morning and at the end of the service the pastor grabbed me and asked me to his home for lunch, this made a major impact on my life and I have never forgotten it. It made such an impact on my life that I thought that was what you do as a Christian and I have attempted to live it ever since, loving others and not being judgemental.

When we get our eyes off Jesus and God the Father we get our eyes off what he wants us to do. Jesus came to set the captives free and he told the disciples that they were to continue in this ministry, a ministry of reconciliation of all mankind to the Father, to break yokes and destroy bondages not create them. I have 2 videos called first love which has the testimonies of musicians who came out of the “Jesus Movement” in the USA in the 60’s and 70’s, and they talk about their first love for God and how all they wanted to do was share God’s love with people, they speak of walking by faith as there was no money to be made back then in Christian music, they talk about people being accepted as they were (hippies) and not being judged for what they wore or how they lived, there was a mighty revival of hundreds of thousands of the youth and the hippy generation.

1John 4:16 says *“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him*. When I turn on the Optus christian channel, all the preachers are talking about returning to the Love of God, small spot fires of revival are breaking out all over the world because people are seeking the face of God in prayer, and when we abide in him we abide in Love according to **1John 4:16**. For years we have had all the evangelists standing on the street corners screaming out that sinners are going to hell, we have had the pulpits filled with the message of prosperity, signs, wonders and healing, but we have missed the main ingredient (*well I have anyway*), the Love of God. **John 3:16** *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”*. What happened to the message of love, hope, peace and joy which are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?

Out of all the people I have seen leave the church offended, upset, dirty on Christians, there has been one common denominator - **no Love!** They have been wrong in leaving this way yes; but when was the last time we rang or visited someone from our church? When was the last time we rang someone to encourage them and say hey, did you know Jesus loves you! I used to do it a lot, but God is now showing me that this is the area I lack in and need to build up again.

When was the last time we went up to our Pastor and thanked him for his faithfulness and encouraged him or her or saved up a \$100 to bless them with. I love to bring people home even if it is only for a cuppa, and just sit with them and share with them, I love encouraging people through this newsletter, and I get encouragement back to see others go on with their Christian walk.

John 13:34 tells us *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another”*. **John 13:35** says *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another”*. How can we say we love God who we do not see when we can't love our fellow man who we can see and is made in the image of God? It is a sad day when people say that the church is no better than the world because of its lack of love. When was the last time that we simply prayed with someone who needed it, or blessed someone financially, or helped them out practically? I don't know about you, but I know there are a few areas in my life here that need changing.

I once heard a teenager make a statement at a youth meeting, they said *“I don't care how much you know, until I know how much you care”*. This has been speaking to me as of late and it is something we all need to meditate upon. Jesus says in **John 10:10** *“the thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”*. Prosperity is great, healing is great, salvation is great, signs and wonders are great, but I know one thing that is greater and he is the author and the finisher of my faith - Jesus.

Unless people can see **Jesus** in you and me, unless they can see something different about you and me from the world, they most likely won't want it. I remember when me and my wife used to spend a lot of our day fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit, people would come into our home and not want to leave commenting on the peace that was there, this is the place in God that I am headed back to, my first love. **Rev 2:4** *“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. v5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, **and repent**, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, **except thou repent***. More love, more power, more of Jesus in our lives.
Love never fails 1Cor 13:8 - Bless ya heaps - Roscoe.