

The joy of loving
愛の喜び

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わたしがあなたがたを愛したように、互いに愛し合いなさい。これがわたしの掟である。友のために自分の命を捨てること、これ以上に大きな愛はない。わたしの命じることを行うならば、あなたがたはわたしの友である。もはや、わたしはあなたがたを僕とは呼ばない。僕は主人が何をしているか知らないからである。わたしはあなたがたを友と呼ぶ。父から聞いたことをすべてあなたがたに知らせたからである。あなたがたがわたしを選んだのではない。わたしがあなたがたを選んだ。あなたがたが出かけて行って実を結び、その実が残るようにと、また、わたしの名によって父に願うものは何でも与えられるようにと、わたしがあなたがたを任命したのである。互いに愛し合いなさい。これがわたしの命令である。

(ヨハネによる福音書 15章12-17節)

Once someone told me, “I never hear about the word love in my family. The familiar word that I always hear in my family is hate. My parents cannot forgive the wrongs that they did to each other. I don’t know how to love and when someone loves me I am scared to accept it.” It was just a casual conversation like any other times as we talked about life, family and human relationship but this remark always echoes in my mind whenever I remember the importance of love in our lives.

One day, unexpectedly, my sister-in-law told me, “I see the love of Jesus in your life.” I was surprised and at the same time I was ashamed of hearing that because it reminded me of how I tried to deal with my brother for many years. Many times I was impatient with my only brother’s immaturity in the family as a responsible person and sometimes I tried to resolve things with him in my anxiousness which never brought any good impacts or results. I used to tell my brother that he did not have the love of Jesus in him and that was the reason he was always selfish and only thought of his interest and not the welfare of his family members. But God revealed it to me that it was not my brother but as His servant I did not have the true love in me either. God helped me to see my own short-coming in dealing my brother and I changed my mindset completely. My anxiousness over my brother’s mistakes especially his drinking habit which made him irresponsible in the family with the financial matter turned into love. The love of God changed me. My anxiousness was gone. Indeed, true love only comes from God and through Him alone we can possess this true and pure love.

Without true love a promise that is made can’t be kept. Without true love it is difficult to break down our own pride and ego. Without true love it is difficult to accept each other as we are with our own weaknesses. If there is no true love there won’t be any forgiveness. If there is no true love it won’t be easy to build trust relationship in the family, in the church, in the community or any work-places.

But to grow love in our heart cannot be as easy as one can talk about it. We have to fight with the weeds as we do in our field everyday in organic farming. And the weeds in our heart could be hatred, jealousy, grudges, unforgiving, selfishness, intolerance etc. Are we aware of these weeds in our heart? All these can bring us the most dreadful feelings and thoughts and can kill Spiritual life steadily. Only through reading God’s Word, prayer and seeking His true love everyday can keep our love in tune with God’s love. Our love must be rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.

Rough paths will be always in our way but life after Jesus is that we are cradled and enveloped in his love and this love is everlasting love. When Jesus died on the cross for us it’s his unconditional love that he offered his body as a living sacrifice for us- For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3: 16). 「(New International Version (NIV)」) This is unconditional love which we freely received from God. We may be good, we may bad but He still loves us.

If we don’t have true love we accumulate so much on what people do bad things to us, too. At one point in my life I used to keep a journal and besides writing good things that I learned or experienced I was also keeping the record of what people did or said bad things to me. Then I realized that it was not what God wanted me to do. The more we hate, the more we become depressed and the depression will lead us to commit the most dreadful thing that we can ever think of in life.

Love must prevail in times of joy and in times of troubles in every household and community. The circumstances may be different but love can rule out everything even the dirtiest sin in us and the most unforgivable incident we think it might be.

Dear believers, let the love of God rule our lives, so that we will be a channel of love to all the people with whom we live and associate with. God bless you all.

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