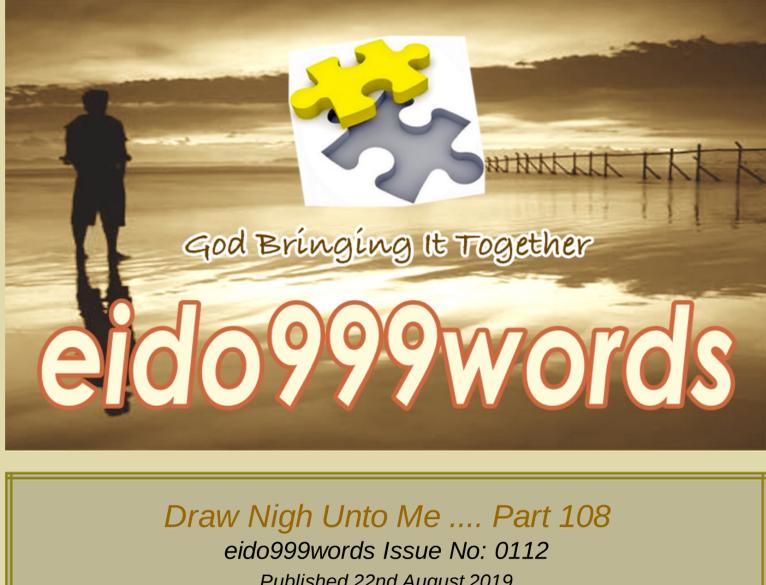


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Draw Nigh Unto Me Part 108

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Defaced - Week 100

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 47

So how do spiritual longings retard the growth of Spiritual Desire? (continued)

Continued from the last issue:

Some years ago we visited a church where a young Greek leader shared that the English language has basically one word for love, yet in the Greek language, there is something like 107 words to describe the various forms of love.

We all know very well that there are numerous types of love in this life & he was correct in pointing out we are limited to the one word 'love' to express them all.

Naturally, the love I declare for my wife does not generate the same feelings I had known toward my mother during her life.

However, in experiencing my wife's motherly love & care of our children, those same feelings can undergo a welcomed reawakening.

To enliven what I felt for my mother while adding another perspective to my love for my wife.

Is it any wonder then, that we have so much difficulty in understanding just what love really is, & why so much time & effort is given over to trying to define it.

For such limitation of outward expression can further increase the gravity or intensity of our lack of understanding that only tends to promote doubt, dubiousness & uncertainty in us.

Particularly because all aspects are open to individual interpretation.

Every one of us is so familiar with the complexities this can produce in our lives, as love in one form or another, infiltrates all areas of our lives.

Interpersonal love, in particular, is so often the root cause of so much of our discussion & introspection, both personally & communally.

In being seen as an essential core element in life, most of our entertainment & media industries constantly feed us with yet another analysis or portrayal of one or more of love's many diversities.

All of which is enthusiastically furnished & absorbed without ever giving or being capable of providing any real answers or clearly defined resolutions to any of love's complexities.

For it, all serves more as an examination & illumination of human behaviour in the same vein as gossip, rather than attempting to answer the unanswerable.

Unfortunately, most of the marketable attention we give to 'love' is based upon the concept of self, under which, the attaining of self-satisfaction is the priority.

So the seemingly unanswerable question for us all is, What is love in one word?

Indeed, what is this force that at once can be so powerful & yet so gentle, so forceful & yet so weak, so solid & yet so fragile, so enduring & yet so temporal, so enriching & yet so exhausting?

As we all know the questions could go on forever & there never seems to be an answer until we meet it.

For then we 'See' God revealing to us a dimly lit part of His Love, yet more than enough to immediately change our life under any true conversion.

Only under any comparison, to then discover that we 'Know' even less about God's Love than what we understood of love in this world.

For all we ever knew of love can only ever be directly likened to God's Love in the area of its true source, which is God, as we discovered last week.

For who of us, in light of our love, could ever attempt to fully explain the Love of God that:

1. Saw Jesus the Son of Man accept the cup of suffering & the Son of God to be Spiritually separated from His Father?
2. Our Father God remains Eternally Loving His Children despite the First Adam's, & therefore our, fall to sin?
3. Caused the Last Adam, who had lived without sin, to willingly die for our sins & shed His Blood to open the Way of Redemption for all who would believe?

Such questions could go on forever to such an extent that it would leave our worldly questions of love wallowing in shadows of insignificance.

For now, as believers, so many opposing questions begin to challenge our hearts & minds in stark contrast to what we had ever known.

For in meeting Him we discovered that God Is Love.

Through Christ Jesus Alive in us, we find ourselves now living in this world but no longer of it, for The Way, The Truth & The Life has been made available to us.

Opening us to New Horizons, to give an enhanced paradigm or perspective that now includes the acknowledging of God, His Kingdom & Eternal Life.

Consisting of a Truth that for now, we can See only dimly or Know in part:

1 Corinthians 13 (NKJV)

The Greatest Gift

- 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
- 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body [a]to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.
- 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not [b] puffed up;
- 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, [c] thinks no evil;
- 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
- 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.
- 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.
- 10 But when that which is [d] perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.
- 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
- 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.
- 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

So here, Apostle Paul shares his revelation of Love the Eternal Way, revealed to be contrary to the concept of self & self-love this world is founded upon.

To us, remaining in this world & still in these bodies of death, war is now amongst the members of our body.

For there is now an enmity between the temporal feelings & lusts within us, fighting against the Call to the Eternal aspects of life now Alive in us.

Even our learnt & possibly much-valued sense of wisdom, conscience, integrity, & moral behaviours now come into question under the Light of True [rather than self] Righteousness.

The more we resist living by faith, our lives can then become doubly bewildering.

For the Truth is that we have never been able to find any true answer in this world to what is needed to bring about our true 'completeness', for none exists.

Yet now, in finding it, we discover as Apostle Paul did, that for now we only See as in a mirror dimly & Know only in part, but by Faith, it will not always be so.

The completeness we all seek is to be found in our return to the Fullness of God's Love for us in Eternity, having been returned within the Glory of Christ from this apparition called 'time'.

Apostle Paul concluded by telling us all to abide in faith, hope & love but the greatest of these is love.

The Merriam-Webster describes abide as follows:

verb - abided also abode; abiding

Definition of abide

transitive verb

- 1a: to bear patiently : TOLERATE
- b: to endure without yielding : WITHSTAND

2: to wait for : AWAIT

3: to accept without objection

intransitive verb

- 1: to remain stable or fixed in a state
- 2: to continue in a place : SOJOURN

abide by

- 1: to conform to
- 2: to accept without objection : to acquiesce in

So here we now find ourselves called upon to allow ourselves to be transformed by & in Christ.

Through patiently yielding to awaiting acceptance without objection, to the stable fixing of our lives upon faith, hope & love through Our Lord Jesus.

And the greatest of these we are to endure with anticipation of our openly embracing is a steadfast love of God.

So that we might be transformed by the renewing of our minds & made witness to the Eternal Love of God consisting within Christ Alive in us.

Romans 12:2 King James Bible

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

To Be Continued.

Love,

Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 101 follows next week]



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