

The Battleground: Faith, Hope and Love

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Wed., September 8, 2021

Opening Summary

The battleground is your faith, hope and love. Since every faith action should come from a heart of love, satan knows he has to move the Christian out of love to defeat them, and he uses five tools (Mark 4:14-20) to do it. In this lesson, Bishop Butler gives a line-by-line teaching on why Christians should be motivated by love in everything they do. Love is the key to all successful relationships. Without it, we are nothing. With it, we can move mountains!

- I. 1 Cor. 13:1 (Weymouth's New Testament – WNT): Charity (Gk. agape): The God-kind of love is the love that sees everyone as valuable and precious whether that love is reciprocated or not.
 - A. Gal. 5:6: Faith is activated by love (agape).
 - B. Rom. 5:5: *Shed abroad* means *poured out*.
 - C. You received the divine (God-like) nature when you were born again (2 Pet. 1:4).
 - D. 1 Cor. 13:1: *A clanging symbol is someone who is irritating*.

- II. 1 Cor. 13:2 (WNT): Your faith can move mountains. Making noise isn't belief.
 - A. Mat. 17:20: If you believe it, you can have it. Nothing shall be impossible to you.
 - B. Luke 17:1-2: There are traps set for you to move you off your faith.
 1. 17:3: Take heed to yourself. Pay attention what you are doing. Question yourself about the things you do, "What was my motive for doing this?"
 2. 17:4: Forgive your brother for the same offence seven times in one day.
 3. 17:5: The apostles needed extra faith for that!
 4. 17:6: Speak to the tree and it should obey you.
 5. 17:7: Your servant does what he should.
 6. 17:10: There's nothing special about forgiving a man seven times in one day. God forgives you more than that and He requires you to forgive others.
 - C. 1 Cor. 13:2: Even though you have great revelation and understanding of the Word, in God's eyes you are nothing if love isn't your motive.
 - D. Success is not the size of your church; it's obeying God, successfully.

- III. 1 Cor. 13:3 (WNT): Wey: if I distribute all my possessions, it profits *me* nothing, if not motivated by love (Mat. 6:1).

- IV. 1 Cor. 13:4 (WNT): *Love is patient* means you can put up with a lot from the one you love. When someone is blessed, you're not jealous, you are happy for them.

- V. 1 Cor. 13:5 (WNT): Love doesn't make itself look big.
 - A. Love doesn't have passionate anger.
 - B. *Brood over wrongs* (Wey) means *keeping anger*. Love starts fresh (Eph. 4:26).
 - C. My wife and I have been married for 45 years because we operate in this love.

- VI. 1 Cor. 13:6 (WNT): This is a big issue in the body of Christ in America.
 - A. Rom. 1:1-32: To *have pleasure* in those that do them means *give consent*. Too much of the church has given consent to all these wicked works.
 - B. It doesn't mean treat others wrongly. You can love the sinner but hate the sin.
 - C. If you stand for God, you will get a target on your back. You may as well settle it.
 - D. Php. 2:1: *Comfort* means *solace*. This is why you come to church, not stay home.
 - 1. 2:2-3: Vainglory means to elevate yourself above others.
 - 2. 2:4: Look to "things of others" to help them.
 - 3. 2:5-9: When you make yourself low, God exalts you, just as He did Jesus.

- VII. 1 Cor. 13:7 (WNT): Love knows how to be silent (Rom. 15:1-3).
 - A. Gal. 6:1-2: The spiritual one restores the one in sin, considering yourself.
 - B. The law of Christ is the law of love. Jesus bore our load of sin. Rather than judge them, love them.
 - C. Take heed to yourself in this way. Ask yourself, how did I react in that situation? Did I violate any of these? Violating these will short circuit your faith.
 - D. Pro. 10:12: Love covers sin.
 - E. 1 Pet. 4:8: Instead of talking about someone's failure, pray for them (Heb. 6:12).

- VIII. 1 Cor. 13:8-10: Never *fails* means never *drops away*.

- IX. 1 Cor. 13:11: *Man-size thinking* is thinking and doing these verses on love.
 - A. The child is boastful, angry, talks about other people, etc.
 - B. Spiritual maturity is dealing successfully with real people and with yourself.
 - C. Marriage is better after 60!

- X. 1 Cor. 13:12: When you get to heaven, you will recognize people that you knew here. You will meet your grandparents you never met here. It'll be a time of joy.

- XI. 1 Cor. 13:13: Now, here on earth, the largest/greatest of the three is love.
 - A. Without love, nothing else works.
 - B. God is loving us according to 1 Cor. 13.

Closing Summary

Love is the barometer for spiritual growth. Ask the Lord to help you grow in love so you can become mature in Christ Jesus. You can do this when you meditate on these things. Go on, make the effort. Then, God will provide the power for you to do it.