

## **Ahavah 2** *The Work of Faith, the Labor of Love, and the Perseverance of Hope*

In Rom 5:1 you will see that we are justified by faith and we have peace. Everything wants to disturb our peace. Many things in a days time come to disturb our peace. It has been established that we have peace. Everyone's peace is disturbed from time to time, but nevertheless we have peace because the Word says that. If we have been justified by faith we have peace. Along the road we are on of growing up, there is going to be tribulation and hard times. Every imaginable thing is going to come along to try to keep us from growing. It is going to be a hard road on which there are great hardships to be endured. There is spiritual opposition to every person who receives the Holy Spirit. If you are experiencing tribulation you know you are His.

Rom 5:3-5 talks about tribulation "which brings about perseverance, which brings about proven character, which brings about hope, which does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts."

Because we *have* the love of God in our hearts — we do not have to get it, we *have* it. It is an established fact for those who have been justified by faith. So, any love that is not God's love cannot love the way God loves. The love of Elohim in Greek is called *agape* love (and then there is *philio* love, which is the type of love between brothers and sisters). *Agape* love corresponds to *ahavah* love in Hebrew — the love of Elohim, God's love. We might have that *philio* love for each other, but we are to love each other and deal with each other with God's love — with *ahavah*. Human love cannot endure all of these things. Love that is not God's love cannot love the love that God's love loves, and we are required to love the way God loves. We must bear the fruit of the Spirit, which is love. And what is love? Love is ardent friendship. Elmer Gantry had something else on his mind in his definition (1 Pet 1:22; 3:8; 4:8; Jn 15:13). This is the living and abiding Word of God (1 Pet 1:23,25; Col 3:12-17).

The question is, who has the love of God? Into whose heart has the love of God, *ahavah*, been poured out? Within those who have been justified by faith. This is basic doctrine — a teaching of understanding. So we ought to love with this love (1 Jn 3:14,16; 1 Cor 6:17) since we are one spirit with Him (Acts 5:32; Jn 7:17; Mt 7:21; Jn 6:45; 1 Ths 1:3; 4:9). To love with God's love requires that we would give up all *self* ishness.

Though we may have that love in our heart, it does not mean we will love with that love. Our own human love falls short of the glory of God, but His love does not fail. We must love with His love that has been poured out into our hearts if we bear the fruit of His Spirit. Remember we have become one spirit with Him if we are *joined* with Him (1 Cor 6:17). The world and even the animal kingdom has a certain kind of love — of caring for others (mothers, fathers, children), some people even caring for each other, but it is not *ahavah* love because *ahavah* love is poured out within *our* hearts, not theirs. There is love between a man and a woman and they base their marriage upon it but that love is not sufficient too many times and this love fails too many times. But *ahavah* love never fails.

We not only have to give up selfishness but everything else that is contrary to that love. As a matter of fact, if we have received grace (Rom 5:1-2) or if we are standing in that grace we exalt in the hope of the glory of God plus we can give up all ungodliness. If we are standing in grace we can give up everything that is unlike God because grace teaches us to give up everything that is ungodly (Titus 2:12; Eph 6:11).

*Standing* — fixed, not moving, remaining erect and not moving away from the hope of the gospel, lasting, not transitory, not liable to fade or vanish as a standing color (Rom 16:25; Col 1:23; Jude 21). Someone asked me what kind of love I was talking about in the teaching the other night. What kind of love must we have in order to know that we have passed out of death and into life? I know that love has been defined as 1 Jn 3:16 defines love — the same love He loved us with. "We know love by this (verse 14) ...we know we have passed out of death and into life because we love the brethren." But what kind of love are you talking about that we would know we have passed out of death and into the very life of God? We know that our Master Yahshua died on the cross; He laid down His life. We ought to lay our life down for one another.

But we must define more specifically what love is. If we are not loving one another with His love it may mean that we do not *have* His love poured out in our hearts. We must be increasing in His love and in the way He loved. If we do not, have not, and cannot, we know that it is just an earthly love that we have and we continue dead, we abide in death, that is where we live. Christianity has some kind of love but

it is not *ahavah* love, therefore they cannot live the way the first church did (Acts 4:32; Rev 2:4-5; Eph 4:13; Acts 20:17,26,27,29,35; 1 Jn 3:14b).

Someone asked me the other day, what is this love we must have for our brothers? I said that it is the love that would get down on their knees and pray for their brother or sister when they are going through hard times — love that gets on their knees and prays for their brother's welfare and not their own.

We do not pass out of eternal death because we love the brethren, but we pass out of eternal death because of our Master Yahshua and because we received the forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit and the love of God (Rom 5:24). But the way we *know* that we have passed out of death of any kind is that we are loving the brethren with the love we have received from God, the love which has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, we would vainly attempt to work for our eternal salvation by trying to love our brothers. Rom 5:5 says that hope does not disappoint us *because* the love of God has been poured out within our hearts. When we received the Holy spirit, the love of God was poured out in our heart. Many people come and are baptized and do not endure because something is missing. What? Love is missing. They have a hope that disappointed them. We have a hope that does not disappoint because we have the love of God poured out in our hearts through the Holy spirit. Those people did not have that *ahavah* love to love with so they gave up trying to love according to the commandment (1 Pet 1:22; 1 Tim 6:14; Jn 13:34; Jn 15:12). Some people have tried for 13 years but never could love with God's love because they did not have God's love to love with (1 Ths 4:9). They were never obedient to the truth so as to purify their souls for this kind of *ahavah* love (1 Pet 1:22-23), never born again...

The kind of love Yahshua loved with was the love of God He had in Him. You can read about it in Hebrews 12. Now we have to love in the identical way that He loved and with the same love He loved with (1 Jn 2:6; 3:16; Eph 4:32; Jn 13:34, etc.). If we are not, it does not necessarily or absolutely mean that we have not passed out of death, it may mean that *ahavah* love is not released because of our own selfishness, which can result in (Jn 15:2,6) death (1 Jn 3:14b; Rom 8:6 9; 1 Jn 4:7-8).

Col 1:28 — To be complete is to live by our new life which expresses by the love of God. If we do not live by that life, then we are not going to bear fruit. And if we do not bear fruit we will be cut off from his life source (Jn 15). But if we are diligent to cut off the old life and change our behavior we will live and have peace because we have a regenerated spirit and *we can* be obedient (Eph 4:21 24; Heb 3:15; Col 3:5 10,12 17). We know that the first church reverted back to the old man — did not “press on to know the Lord.” Paul tried to teach that in Phil 3:9 12. He himself, he said, had not attained to it, but he forgets the past and presses on. We are not presenting an impossible gospel.

Rev 20:6; Eph 3:19; Phil 3:11 speaks about knowing the love of Messiah in order to attain to the first resurrection. We are virtually no account to Messiah unless we attain to that first resurrection. We would not be living for His purpose; we would just be living for ourselves.

So the love that we must love each other with is the love that gets down on their knees and prays for their brother when he is experiencing hardship and going through troubled waters. “Love does no wrong to a brother.” This is the consciousness that we have that we have passed out of death and into life. When we do not have that consciousness, we are not loving our brother as He loved us — we are not in communion we do not have the consciousness of knowing; there is a fear of death in us. This fear may be Him knocking on our heart. He wants to come in and fill us with *ahavah* again (Rev 3:20,21). How did our Master overcome?

Love (1 Cor 13:4 7) never fails. That is *ahavah* love. That is the love that we are to love our brothers with. That is the love by which we will attain to the first resurrection. That is the love by which we know that we have passed out of death and into life. That is the love that has been poured out in our hearts. We *know* that His love is in our hearts because we have a hope that does not disappoint us (Eph 2:12; Heb 11:1; Rom 8:24-25).

What if our love is never sufficient and it never really manifests God's love? (1 Jn 3:18,19,21,22,23,24; 4:7:8) N'su — Either we still have love of the flesh (Rom 8:6) — selfishness that has not been put to death — or we have not received that love in our heart.

If we never die to that selfishness and show *ahavah* love, we will never attain to the first resurrection (Gal 5:24-26; Mk 8:34). It is evident that Phil 3:10-11 means that we will not attain to the resurrection of Messiah unless we come to know Him. This is essential understanding (Eph 3:19) because the flesh is bent on and determined to cause stumbling (Mt 18:6; 1 Jn 2:10; Rom 13:10). But we must be more determined to set our mind on the Spirit in order to know Him. Phil 3:10 is essential in order to attain to the resurrection.

The teachings kill us. The Bible — the Word of God kills our flesh. It requires our death. It requires us to come to an end of ourselves. It requires something to be crushed in us in order to love with that love, in order for us to endure and remain as the household of God. We have become the household of God (where God lives). The first church was, but they did not remain that (Heb 3:6) so we need to confess the sins our forefathers failed to confess because the same tendencies are in us (Heb 4:11; 3:6,15,19).

Jn 13:34; 14:21,24 — We must keep His commandments and His commandments have to do with us loving our brothers as He loved us. And if we keep His commandments He will manifest Himself to us. We all desire for Him to manifest Himself to us (1 Jn 2:3-5). We know we have come to know Him if we keep His commandments and His commandment is about loving one another. You can see that the stone will not be developed without this. That is because our love *can* just be transitory (passing) unless we come to know the deep love of God which surpasses all understanding, unless we come to know how deep that love is. That is the love that we must have that will allow us to endure as His Household until the end.

So love, then, is always kind. Will we ever get to a place where we are always kind? Some will and some will not — some are not taken up and are left behind because they are unkind, beating their brothers with their tongues or not taking the opportunity to be kind and merciful and tenderhearted (Rom 13:10). Can we put our flesh to death in order to always be kind? Yes, it is possible. We are going to do it. Unkind words to one another is the same thing as beating each other. Those who did that are put with the unbelievers because they acted like unbelievers (Lk 12:46). Not speaking kind words to a brother or sister is doing wrong to him or her also, especially when you have the opportunity and feel the urge (Eph 4:15; Mal 3:16; Dan 12:1).

We are infants now. If our love is increasing, be of good hope. If it is not perfected do not lose hope. But it must increase. If we are not bearing fruit we will be cut off because there is no use in us being on the vine if it is not producing fruit. Are you producing a little bit of fruit? It may be enough, but if you are not producing more because you are holding back then you will be disciplined (Rev 3:19; Heb 12:6). How do you prove to be His disciple? Bearing fruit — making His joy and our joy complete (Jn 15:8-11).

“Love never fails” (1 Cor 13:8). Does it ever fail? If we fail now it is because we are not loving with His love all the time. If we were, the love that we show others would not fail. We must come to the point that our love does not fail each other. What if, at a crucial moment, our love fails? If we have His love and have put away selfishness, His love will not fail. Whenever we love our brothers in this way, we walk in the light and there is nothing in us that causes our brother to stumble (1 Jn 2:10-11).

What good is it that God’s love is put in our heart if we do not manifest it? How is His love in heaven going to get down here to earth to show people what God is like? Is it possible that His love could be poured out into our hearts and we not know it and never manifest His love to others in the way His love is manifested or revealed to others? This is the love which we must *express* to others in order that we may know — be conscious that we have life and not death.

Someone asked what kind of love is it that we must have for our brothers? It is *ahavah* love (1 Cor 13:4-7). *Ahava* love is always kind and always patient; it never envies; never boasts; is never proud; never rude; never self seeking; is not easily angered and never keeps a record of wrongs. *Ahava* love always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. *Ahava* love never fails (not even once)

1) *Ahava* love is *patient*. What is patience? Having the quality of enduring evils without murmuring. Did Israel pass that test? No (1 Cor 10:1-13). These are the things that keep us out of the kingdom: murmuring, not having patience. What about the patience of Job? Could you be patient if you had boils all over you and your wife and children died and all your property is taken away and then people come and accuse you? Patience is sustaining afflictions of body and mind with fortitude. Job had

fortitude in sustaining his afflictions. Patience is the quality of bearing injury, offenses, without anger or revenge. What if we never have that kind of patience? We will never know we have the Spirit because the love that is poured out in our hearts is patient. Patience is the love by which we know we have passed out of death and into life. If we do not have patience we do not have the fruit of the Spirit. If one does not have the fruit, the tree of the Spirit is not in his heart (Jms 3:12). If we have a fig tree in our heart, then figs will come out of our mouth.

2) *Ahavah* love is always *kind*. Eph 4:31-32 — That is evident. We cannot get out of it. We are to love and be patient and kind in the same way that He was kind to us. Supply our brothers their wants, assisting them in distress, etc. Lk 6:35-36 says that *ahavah* is kind to everybody.

3) *Ahavah* is not *jealous*. What if the love you have is jealous? What if you are jealous of others? Then you do not know that you have passed out of death because love is not jealous. You cannot be jealous and love at the same time.

Jealousy is suspicion. You suspect someone. You are uneasy, conscious of rivalry, uneasy that one has withdrawn his affections from you or that he may withdraw his affection. We are to always love and never make people think that we have withdrawn our affections from them, and we are never to suspect our brothers in the same way. (That is what N'su confessed the other night. That is why he confessed it, because it was sin. He had a relationship developing with Haggai, and when Gidon came he was afraid that Haggai's affections would be turned away from him and toward Gidon. He treated Gidon as a rival. He was jealous.) We are suspicious that we do not enjoy the affections and love of others as much as someone else does. Jealousy is being full of competition — fearful that a rival would rob him of the affections of another. (That was jealousy, but he repented of it because it was sin and the Holy Spirit brought that out, months later.) Jealousy is fear that another will enjoy some advantage or privilege we desire for ourselves. Love is not jealous, competitive, suspicious. Love does not say, "he does not love me anymore." Love does not say, "he will not like me anymore after he gets to know me." If a man loved his wife he would not be jealous of her because he is confident of his love for her and her for him. If you are jealous then you are not loving your brother or sister (1 Jn 3:14b). To suspect your brother or sister or wife or husband is to not love as we are commanded to love (1 Jn 3:23). He who does not love abides in death.

4) *Ahavah* love does not *brag* or *boast* — display ones actions and merits. It is not ostentatious — showy display of abilities. It does not do so much work in one day to get attention.

5) *Ahavah* love is not *arrogant* — taking too much upon oneself, trying to see how much they can do in one day, doing too much. That stems from pride — a higher estimation of what their faith merits. Arrogance exalts the worth of oneself. It gives oneself an undue degree of importance (Rom 12:3). Love is not arrogant. Think of yourself only in accordance with the faith you have. And if you do more than you have faith to do, it is sin.

6) *Ahavah* love does not act *unbecomingly* — in an unsuitable, improper, indecent manner.

7) *Ahavah* love is not *self seeking* — seeking one's own interest or happiness. *Ahavah* does not seek its own happiness (Rom 12:10; Phil 2:3-4).

8) *Ahavah* love is not *provoked*. If you love, your brother is not going to provoke you to anger. You will not be aroused or excited by offensive words by a brother or by injury.

9) *Ahavah* love does not *take into account a wrong suffered*.

This is how we are the children of Elohim, by loving Him and carrying out His commandments which He has given to us. All who are born of God overcome the world. We overcome by faith. How do we do it all? By faith. That is the faith we have (Heb 11:6).

No less than this is required of us to be a disciple. As we go along more and more is required and we have to put an end to what keeps us from accomplishing our Father's purpose. Our Master set an example for us (1 Jn 2:6). Anything less is mere Christianity.

If you want to know how to do it, read and obey Proverbs 2. If we do not do this we will fall, ourselves, just as the first church did and become the unfaithful wife who left the covenant. Proverbs 2 teaches us a great deal.

So what is the gospel for? To bring each one to the end of their life in order to enter that covenant so they can

love with the love of God. That love is poured out into our heart and then that love grows and grows as we pray “Father, give me the grace to love today.” It is not impossible for the new man. Whether we can do it or not is just according to if we are in the spirit or the flesh. Life or death. Choose life and live. We have got to set our mind on the spirit (Rom 8:6; Heb 9:16-17) and keep the covenant of life and peace (Mal 2:4 7). This covenant must continue with Levi, but who can stand and who can endure? (Mal 3:2).

ha emeq shared — That is why we are not disappointed because it says that the love of God is poured out in our hearts. So we are not disappointed because *ahavah* has been poured out in our hearts even though you may see in yourself how much you fall short of the standard. But we desire to do it and we will if we pray that we would have the grace to show His *ahavah*. That is the only way it will be known is if we love one another.

The only way our Father could send His love here was to send His Son here. So we must walk the same way He did (1 Jn 2:6). It is better for us to admit that we are not abiding in Him than to say we are but not be walking as He walked and loving the way He loved (1 Jn 1:6-7).