



Hello again from Quarantine! Praise the Lord for another day of life. Sometimes it's easy to overlook just the gift of life itself. So it's worth a pause every now and again to count your blessings. And I have a long list .... and so I just want to give thanks to God for bringing me through, and not just providing, not only filling my cup, but giving me something to sip from the saucer.

".....Whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected". I love this devotion today. We have all heard God loves us. We preach about it, we have bumper stickers that say it, and we love to quote John 3:16. And listen... it's true, God does love us. He loved us enough that while we were in our messes .... in spite of them, He sent His son to redeem us. But that doesn't tell the whole story ..... "whoso keepeth His word" ..... it's sets a dividing line.

Yes, God loves everyone ..... but the question, when is His love perfected? Meaning when does it complete it's work, when is it love at it's best? It's PERFECTED when you and I choose to KEEP His word. You and I, as un-yielded vessels, who were full of sin, who were known for our "sometimes darkness", as apposed to being full of light..... YOU and I, choose to OBEY. Then Love is Perfected. That's when we are in tune with God, that's when things are in harmony, and the plan's of God for our lives come to life. Love is perfected when we choose to follow rather than reject. God's plan's for us are good and not evil, but require us to take part..... to choose to obey.

God will never force feed obedience. In His love, He has invited us in. In His love, we have been given ADOPTION.... the opportunity to be Son's and Daughters . To choose to Obey, is a recognition of who God is. When we choose to obey, we are revealing our Faith in God, not only does God see and know it, but we reveal that faith to those around us. Love is perfected in a new Creation..... when the creature, see's where we once were, and we see our deliverance, we see the Love of God, and we choose to gravitate toward it. Obedience is a choice to trust, it's a desire to be closer, it's a

desire to be a witness of the things done in our lives, it becomes all of those things!

Loving us in our mess ..... comes to this experience with God, where we've been pulled out of the mess, we recognize how, and we choose to walk with the one that rescued us rather than go back to the world and it's ways. Love is Complete ..... it's whole ..... it's perfected in our lives.

The love of God WHEN RECEIVED .... and that's just it..... God loves everyone..... but not everyone receives that Love. When received, it takes root, it's a beautiful seed planted in the garden of our lives ..... and it impacts everything ..... if received, if appreciated, if we tend to it.

Have you received the Love of God? Have you accepted the gift? Are you tending to that Love? Are you pouring back into Him, with a recognition of how He poured into you? Take time today ..... take time to not only think about your choices ..... but taking into account, the Love of God for you, and ask yourself, "Has that love been perfected in me?".

God bless - Pastor Paul

April 30

Whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected.

The God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. - If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. - Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. - Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

I JOHN 2:5. Heb. 13:20,21. I John 2:3. -John 14:23. -I John 3:6,7. -I John 4:17.