

Love Never Fails

1Peter 3:7

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

It is God's desire that all of us, as His children, receive all that we request and desire in our prayer life, as Jesus said in Mark 11:24, **Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.** He loves us so much more than we will ever know in this life, and He wants us to be blessed abundantly physically, spiritually and emotionally. If we'd just learn to cooperate with the guidelines He laid out in His written Word, we would have no problem receiving the things we desire and pray for, according to what Jesus said in Mark 11:24. For God wishes above all things that we prosper, and be in health, even as our soul prospers (3 John 2).

But, God *does require* a certain conduct and attitude from our life and heart. We must show God the respect and attitude that He so rightfully deserves and is owed, and we must honor His Word. We have to realize that we can't just act any way we want to act if we are going to get answers to our prayers.

When we were born-again, we became a new creature in Christ Jesus, according to 2 Corinthians 5:17: **Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.** But, by becoming born-again, we did not get a new carnal nature or a new mind. It is our responsibility, once we are born-

again, to renew our mind to God's Word, to keep our flesh under and to obey the commandment that He gave us to walk in love. One reason for this is so that our prayers would not be hindered. We've had so many unanswered prayers in the body of Christ that religious leaders have had to come up with some excuse as to why prayers were not being answered, and why we were not receiving what we prayed for. This is where we got certain beliefs and teachings that God doesn't always answer our prayers: '*Sometimes He says yes, sometimes He says no...He knows our needs better than we do...*' These are just all man's religious opinions, teachings and myths that *don't hold up to God's Word*. He plainly tells us that not walking in love *will hinder* our prayers from being answered, for He said, "***...that your prayers be not hindered.***"

I don't know about you, but there are a lot of people I encounter that my flesh doesn't want to love, but I've learned from God's Word and from experience, that if I'm going to get anywhere in faith and get answers to my prayer requests, I have got to love them whether my flesh wants to or not.

Everything in this world has limits and fails sooner or later, but ***love never fails*** (1 Corinthians 13:8), and if we pray scripturally, and keep our hearts pure before God and grow and develop in the God-kind of love, our prayer life is going to be fruitful and productive. It is not going to come easy, but it is something that we must work on daily; it's not just a one-time deal. I don't know about you, but I need God's help so much that I have to walk in love and work at it every day of my life.

Early this morning, as a cab driver was taking me to the airport, I found my flesh rising up when an incident arose. I'd gotten to bed late the night before and got up early in the morning to pack and catch a flight, so I was short on sleep and tolerance. And, for whatever the reason was, the cab driver seemed to want to take his frustrations out on me. I wanted to return railing for railing — and I started to, and would have proceeded -- but then I got to thinking that I'm believing God for too many things to be messing around and getting out of love. After I paid the driver, I found myself shaking his hand and

telling him how much I appreciated him getting up early and picking me up. I think he was really baffled by my response to the way he'd acted. Even though my flesh got angry, compassion rose up in my heart and I found myself walking away, wishing that I had done more, and praying that God would help him and take care of him, and hoping that I would get to ride in his cab again.

I don't know about you, but on too little sleep my flesh can rise up pretty quickly, and our flesh will rise up — but if we've been training ourselves to purposely walk in love, we'll catch ourselves in these times of frustration and fatigue. But, if we do return railing for railing, we will immediately know we missed God by getting out of love and we will repent and apologize.

People of the world, such as people in public transportation or public service who aren't saved, often expect an argument and disharmony from those they encounter, because it's a tough and angry world. They are not expecting a response of love and concern, especially after they've yelled at you. We all have flesh, and it is going to be tested every day. We will make mistakes, but we must strive for perfection. It should be a high priority that we make daily progress in walking in love. Every day, I try to read my love verses, and I want to share them with you. I took them out of the Amplified Bible:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it pays not attention to a suffered wrong].

It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.

Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].

Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]...

I was so bad at not walking in love when I got saved, that I didn't even know where to begin. I seemed to be totally hopeless as far as walking in the God-kind of love was concerned. I was to the point that not only did I *not do* what the Bible said love did, *I did the opposite!* Though in the natural, to me, I seemed hopeless, I made a conscious effort and dedication to make these scriptural affirmations every day. I find that what helps me the most is to read these scriptures daily, out loud to myself, as well as putting a lot of time in fellowshiping with the Father and praying in tongues every day, as it says in Jude 20,21: **But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**

As believers, we have to make changes; we cannot run from them or avoid them, but we must cheerfully accept these changes as challenges to better our lives. All God has ever tried to do was protect and bless me — He just expects me to cooperate with Him. And, it all started the day I began reading these scriptures out loud to myself and taking on the responsibility of walking in love and having the courage to apologize to those whom I got out of love with.

So, please read these scriptures — I've got them printed out one of my scriptural prayer cards. Would you let me send you one? And you and I will read it to ourselves every day, and together, we will take

the challenge and the commandment God gave us to walk in love. I look forward to talking to you tomorrow.

I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow.

Brother Rich

Remember, *God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers* (3 John 2).