

YOU CAN WALK IN LOVE

Bhagavad Gita tells us:

*Meet the transient world
With neither grasping nor
fear,
Trust the unfolding of life
And you will attain true
serenity.*

The above statement shows that life is full of uncertainties, the unknown and the unknowable. Experts recommend that we develop what they call, 'a high tolerance for uncertainty' if we are to live in peace, even while being aware that so much in our lives is outside our control. Losing control, living with uncertainty generates fear – and this fear can be conquered by the right attitude – by love, kindness, faith and compassion.

A wise thinker pointed out that there are two great sources of power, two great forces of strength in this world: one of them is vested in those who are not afraid to kill, hurt,

wound, maim and destroy. The other is vested in those who are not afraid to love, forgive, heal and be reconciled. If you belong to the latter group, do not be afraid to love. I personally have the strong belief and conviction that the power of love is far greater than the power of hatred. If we are to confront the dark forces of destruction and annihilation, we must use the greatest weapon in our possession – the power of love. Love is not weak, it is not sentimental but it may not be always easy!

Mother Theresa was once being interviewed for BBC Television.

The interviewer remarked that in a way, the life of service might be much easier for her than for ordinary households. As she had remarked that, she had no possession, no insurance, no car, and no husband to care for! But she smiled in reply and said, "I'm married too!"

she held up the ring that nuns of the Order of the Sisters of Charity wear, to symbolize their "marriage" to Christ. "He can be difficult at times!" It takes courage to love! Equally, it takes courage to forgive. The admonition is to urge us to meet the tragedies of life with what is called "soul force". Love, therefore requires courage and clarity as encapsulated in the following words of Gandhiji:

*If you want to see the heroic
look*

Look at those that can love

In return for hatred,

If you want to see the brave

Look at those who can forgive.

If you want to witness for Christ, walk in love. To walk in love is to receive His love for you and manifest it to others. In Matthew chapter 24, Jesus was giving His disciples some of the signs of the end times: wars and rumours of wars, famines and earthquakes in many

places, nations rising against nations. Verse 12 emphasized that a sign of the end times is that the love of the great body of people being referred to as the CHURCH will wax cold. It is pertinent therefore, that we (church) have to be sure that we don't get stronghold of cold love in our life, a life without compassion, a life where we do not really care about other people.

Satan loves it when our love is cold toward one another and we don't get involved with others. It is actually an end-time, demonic warfare attack that gives Satan the upper hand over us. To keep him from gaining that advantage, we must develop and exercise a strong walk – with God, with each other and with all those to whom God sends to us.

The type of love I am talking about here is not the Storge one or the Phillia one or the Eros but Agape one which is used

to describe Christian love. Christians are commanded by Jesus to Love others; but today, in our diverse societies, love is only associated with romantic feelings and sexual relationship. Our God is the Almighty. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He is also good and His mercy endures forever. One character of God that is transmissible through us is love. How do we show that we know God? It is by showing His love (I John 4:8). These people we are to show love include those that are lovable and those that do not deserve our love.

The entire new covenant is wrapped up in love. According to God's Word, we can walk in perfect love while we are here on this earth. God is love, so love itself is already perfect; but we have to allow God to express His perfection in our lives. We can do that by keeping His Word. Today, so many Christians do not walk in love but concentrate on

prosperity, healing, breakthrough, how to change the family etc. but Jesus said "I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another". Christ's love for us is not dependent on a quality in us that makes us lovable but because He is love regardless of your strength and weaknesses. Not because of your achievement, talent or personality – the love of God is grace-motivated. It is love that is not based on the expectation of any returns to us unlike the worldly love.

Do you love your critics? Do you love your persecutors? Do you love the unlovable? Love or charity has many beautiful attributes (I Corinthians 13: 1-13). These verses contain the description of Christ and the love He enables in us when He comes to dwell in us. The miracle of Christ power dwelling in us is exactly the love he will communicate to others through us. When this quality of love is the

basis of a relationship, the miracle of unity is possible.

To walk in love is to major in love and not judgment. We need to major in the things that are major to God, and love is a major thing to Him. Other than be a judge, try to be your brother's keeper. Matthew 7:4-5 explain that you need to be concerned about what is wrong with you, not about what's wrong with everybody else. Consider the log in your own eyes and not the speck in another person's. Judging opens the door to the Devil. My advice is that, anywhere you don't have responsibility, don't bother to have an opinion. The advice is amplified in 1 Thessalonians 4:11 "that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you". This scriptural instruction encourages us to show mercy because mercy triumphs over judgment. Why do we think too much about the wrong

things and not think enough about the right things?

Another attitude of God's love is for the brethren to always be ready to serve others, even your subordinates. John 13:5-6 explained how Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet, but Jesus told him that "If I don't wash you, you have no part in Me". This shows that even, as a leader, always be ready to serve people. I am not talking about some leaders (politicians) who would promise to serve you but instead impoverish you! Keep yourself humble (1 Peter 5:6). God is love because love is humble. One great undoing of some present-day ministers is pride. Humility can be discerned from your relationship with your superiors and subordinates. When you respect your subordinates as though they were your superiors, you are beginning to learn the principles of a humble life. There is nothing good that can come out of

arrogance and pride: only destruction. Jesus Christ, our Master and King humbled Himself to die a shameful death (Philippians 2:8).

When you walk in love, there will be no fear since there is no fear in love (1 John 4:18). Walking in love will get rid of fear since you're walking in the commandment of God. A man born into this earth is filled with and ruled by fear, but a man with a recreated spirit is born of and filled with the love of God (2 Timothy 1:7). Be kind and patient. One way to demonstrate that you care for your brethren as a lady is through modest dressing. One who really loves does not dress to kill but dress to save. Christians who wear indecent clothes cannot be said to love their brethren.

Be a blessing to others and be ready to forgive. In Mark 11:25, Jesus tells us that when we pray, we are to forgive anybody we have anything against. If

we don't do that in love, our faith would not work because, as Galatians 5:6 says, faith is activated, energized, expressed and worked through love. Walking in love means being a blessing to somebody else. I Cor. 13:5. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking. This shows that our love should be based on eternal qualities and not with the temporal qualities of gifts. Do the right thing because it is the right thing, not because, people are doing it. When you bless others, you are equally being blessed!

Benefits of walking in love include but not limited to the following: Angelic protection (Psalm 91:1-4); Abiding in the light (John 2:10); Healing and deliverance from temporal evils (2 Co 10:4); Always receive from God – One blessing of love is the right to receive answers to prayers. In Acts 10:38; Jesus went about doing

good because God was with Him.

Live in love. Let your impact be felt for good in the life of others. Sacrifice your talents, money and other resources for the salvation and betterment of others. Spend quality time in prayers, bible study and demonstrate that you love the brethren. Here then, you can say you are walking in love!

