



Cross Currents International Ministries

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Love:

Insightful

"... more precious than gold"

1 Peter 1:7

by Richard A. Bennett

Dear Prayer Supporter,

"*Insightful Love*," the fourth chapter in our series of "*The Love of God*," speaks of His refining work in us that we might be brought forth as "*more precious than gold*." Please prayerfully read and share with others.

CCIM thank God for the privilege of supplying a vitally needed **generator** for broadcasts to Turkana land, Kenya. Your faithful gifts and prayers

enable us to minister to precious Turkana people who survive terrible drought, physical attacks and satanic strongholds. The generator will extend radio outreach and help reach many more for the Lord and encourage the desolate in Him.

Together in His Name,

God's love extended through CCIM by a NEW GENERATOR for Turkana land broadcasts in Kenya.



- It is so refreshing to hear the word of the Lord every morning through our Turkana "*Dorothy's Daily Devotional*" program. Please pray for us as the terror situation in the country is finishing our children.
- We lost our brother in the *Garissa University terrorist attack*. He was our first born and my mom is the worst affected in the family. We need prayers as we are going through a drought time as a family. Originally, we came from Kitale and had just moved to Lodwar, **Turkana land**, as my dad got a transfer in the county government.



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The Love of God

1. Incomprehensible Love
2. Inclusive Love Part I
3. Inclusive Love Part II
4. Insightful Love
5. Incomparable Love
6. Incontestable Love
7. Inductive Love
8. Influential Love

Insightful Love

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore and repent” Revelation 3:19.

Chastening by a loving God is not to produce a sense of shame and guilt. It is God’s method of refining and purifying lives for our eternal good and for His eternal glory.

King David was aware that he could not hide behind words and call it prayer. He reflected, “O Lord, Thou hast searched me, Thou knowest my down sitting and mine uprising, Thou understandeth my thought afar off” Psalm 139:1,2. David also mused how that God was fully aware of the way he had trod; of the words he had spoken; and of his whereabouts at all times. That is a sobering thought.

“For our God is a consuming fire” Hebrews 12:29. As fire, the Lord consumes all He cannot purify, and He purifies all He cannot consume. Genuine revival commences when a believer comes to the ‘Judgment Seat of Christ’ ahead of time. There, in the light of God’s eternal glory and holiness, He brings to ashes all self-centered values and priorities. But praise God, He gives, “beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness” Isaiah 61:3. That is genuine revival!

When David became shamefully conscious how God knew all he had thought and done, he asked Him to reveal this knowledge: “**Search** me, O God, and **know** my heart: **try** me and **know** my thoughts: and **see** if there be any wicked way in me, and **lead** me in the way everlasting” Psalm 139:23, 24.

Search: “Throw light into the darkened cells, where passion reigns within; quicken my conscience ‘til it

feels the loathsomeness of sin.” Francis Bottome [FB].

Many years ago when ministering on the Canadian Prairies, Dorothy and I were blessed to be entertained by a very poor couple. Early one morning, we awoke at the roar of three helicopters which landed on a field behind the little house. We discovered they brought prospectors to drill in search of uranium to send soil samples to scientists in Toronto. To find a trace of valuable uranium would necessitate much worthless soil being discarded. When the Lord—our Divine Prospector—searches our hearts, He places no value on the soil of self-centered pursuits, but counts as eternal value, the precious fruit of the Spirit.

Know: The mind is the engine that drives our actions. “Search all my thoughts, the secret springs, the motives that control; the rebel heart, where evil things hold empire over my soul” [FB]. When God reveals the secret springs of the soul, it can be a life-transforming experience. “Thus prostrate I shall learn of Thee, what now I feebly prove, that God alone in Christ can be unutterable love” [FB].

God declares: “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways” Isaiah 55:8. Accordingly, Paul exhorts believers to: “Be renewed in the spirit of your mind” Ephesians 4:23. That is, not what I desire but what He wants! The Bible also says: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” Philippians 2:5. The Lord Jesus humbled Himself in His earthly walk. And for ourselves, pride and self-sufficiency are the antithesis of faith.

Humble dependence upon the sufficiency of the Lord Jesus is the true expression of living faith.

Try: When God permits my testing, temptation, domestic difficulty, or health problem, this is not to destroy my faith. It is meant to purify my faith even as gold is tried in the fire: *“That the trial of your faith, being much **more precious than of gold** that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto the praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ”* 1 Peter 1:7.

Lead: After the heart has been exposed to the fire of God, guidance is not a perplexing issue. The story is told of the man who reached a crossroad, and, not knowing which way to go, he threw his walking stick in the air believing it would point him in the right direction. He repeated the procedure three times and then proceeded to walk the road to which the walking stick pointed. A bystander inquired, “Why did you throw your stick up in the air three times?” The answer: “Well the first two times, it didn’t point to the way I wanted to go!” Sadly, that is true for many of us seeking God’s guidance!

Jacob said to his son Reuben, *“Thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength ... [but you are] **unstable as water**”* Genesis 49:3,4. Sadly, this is an apt description of an irresponsible Christian.

The glorified Lord Jesus Christ, addressed the church at Laodicea: *“I know”* and *“thou knowest not”* Revelation 3:15,17. He then told them what He knew and what they needed to know—including the fact that the church at Laodicea was lukewarm!

Also, *“Thou sayest, I have need of nothing”* verse 17. The expectation of a retirement income, Social Security, and medical insurance causes many people to live in complacency, trusting in their own resources, rather than in the promises of God to supply their daily bread. Such independent living, was exposed when the Lord Jesus said: *“Thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”* verse 17. This is hardly the way that many churches employ to win friends and influence people! But the honest exposure of need through the preaching of the Word is the prerequisite for the Lord Jesus to meet that need.

The Lord Jesus continued, *“I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; [true spiritual **value**] and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear [true spiritual **virtue**] and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see [true spiritual **vision**]”* Revelation 3:18.

How does such value, virtue, and vision become mine? It is all available when Christ enters the human

heart: *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me”* verse 20. In St. Paul’s Cathedral, there hangs the original classic painting of the renowned artist Hoffman Hunt. A little boy looking at the picture of the Lord Jesus standing at a door and knocking, said: “The artist forgot to put a handle on the door!” Mr. Hunt, who was standing nearby, smilingly answered, “Sonny, the door can only be opened from the inside.” He then proceeded to share the need for every person to open the door of their heart to personally receive the Lord Jesus as Savior! It is your responsibility to open the door of your life and invite Him to come in as Lord and Savior.

When Jesus comes into your life, as has been succinctly said, He becomes “the dynamic of His own demands; the cause of His own effect; the source of His own activity and the origin of His own purpose” This results in **Jesus first; Others second; Yourself last – heavenly JOY!**

Walk in the light, so shall you know
That fellowship of love
His Spirit only can bestow,
Who reigns in light above.

Walk in the light—and sin abhorred
Shall not defile again;
The blood of Jesus Christ the Lord
Shall cleanse from every stain.

Walk in the light, and you shall own
Your darkness past away,
Because that light has on you shone,
In which is perfect day.

Walk in the light—your path shall be
Peaceful, serene, and bright;
For God, by grace, shall dwell in you,
And God Himself is Light.
~Bernard Barton 1784-1849

Spiritual Check-up

- * Do I recognize that God is using my present circumstances to refine my life for eternity?
- * What is the true value of my life? Do self-centered priorities and pleasures govern the choices I make?