

Deeper Christian Life Ministry
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Easter Retreat
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Lovest Thou Me?
John 21:15-17

Thank you for this retreat. Thank you for the cross. Thank you for Calvary. Thank you, Lord, for your crucifixion there on the cross of Calvary. Thank you for the signs and the wonders and the salvation and the reconciliation, the righteousness, the redemption flowing from Calvary to our souls. Oh Lord, we pray that today you will seal up all those wonders in our hearts and lives and families in Jesus' name.

We pray because of the love you manifested at Calvary, every moment of the day, every step of our lives, we'll be showing the love back to you again in Jesus' name. Lord, we've heard you say it to us, that because you loved us to the very end, and you held on to that plan of redemption to the very end, we ourselves, too, will hold that thing you have given us unto the very end in Jesus' name.

Your love in us will not fail. Your love in us will not fade away. Your love in us will not retreat, will not go back, in Jesus' name. We'll hold the fort until you come again. We're sending the answer, waving the answer back to heaven. Lord, we pray you can trust us. You can have confidence in us. You can rely on us. We'll hold it till the very end in Jesus' name. By your grace, in your strength, by your power, through the promises you have given us, and through the hope we have of seeing you and our loved ones in heaven when we eventually leave, by your grace we'll hold on in Jesus' name.

I pray, Lord, you'll speak to every heart this morning, and you'll lead us, Lord, to that point of no return...that we'll serve you to the very end. Thank you, Lord, because we know you have answered. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. That's right; put your hands together for Jesus before you sit down. Amen.

We're looking at John, chapter 21. It's a very simple thing...the Lord Jesus Christ asked a question. He asked that question from the foremost of his disciples and apostles. He had gathered them together, and this man had always been the number one man mentioned when you have the list of those apostles. Now he's asking the question from you and from me as well. John, chapter 21, and I'm reading there from verse 15, *"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?'"*

The Lord confronted Simon Peter, and He wanted to know just one thing about his love...love for Christ. But then it was the love that He wanted to compare with all the other things that might be in the mind, in the heart, in the pursuit, in the pleasure of Simon Peter. He said, *"Lovest thou me more than these?"*

What is it He was asking? What comparison was He making? He wanted to know whether there was anything in the heart of Simon that will compete with the love of Christ. He wanted to know whether there's anyone, anybody in the heart of Simon Peter that will compete with the love of Jesus Christ. Today, the same question is coming your way. The Lord is asking the question, *Do you love Me more than these?* What are those things in your life that may be competing with the Love of Christ?

The Lord is saying this day...He's calling you to that total love, entire love, complete love, a kind of love that has no rival. ***"Lovest thou me more than these?" He saith unto him, 'Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee.' He saith unto him, 'Feed my lambs.'"*** Show your love. Demonstrate that love. Reveal that love. Manifest that love by feeding my lambs.

In verse 16: ***"He saith to him again the second time, 'Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?'"*** Can we clear everything out of the way, Simon? Can we take everyone from the throne of your heart, Simon? Can we remove everything that surrounds you, Simon? Can we have the love of Christ only, sitting and reigning upon your heart? "Lovest thou Me?" ***"He saith unto him, 'Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.' He saith unto him, 'Feed my sheep.'"*** He said, "Feed my sheep." Don't just feed yourself, Simon. Don't have that self-love, self-appreciation, self-protection, self-preservation, and self-glorification. Forget about yourself. Don't just feed yourself, feed My sheep. That will be the evidence of what you pronounce from your mouth. "Yes, Lord, I love thee."

Verse 17: ***"He saith unto him the third time, 'Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?'"*** Do you really, really, really love Me? ***"Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, 'Lovest thou me?' And he said unto him, 'Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.' Jesus saith unto him..."*** What? ***"Feed my sheep."*** That will be the evidence that Peter actually loved the Lord.

That will be the evidence that *you* actually, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all the gift and the skill you have within you...that at every opportunity, you're feeding the lambs, you're feeding the sheep, you're feeding the sheep. You are not thinking about yourself. You're all the time feeding the people of God.

Lovest Thou Me? That's the message the Lord is sending to us at this time as we bring our retreat this time to a conclusion. There are 3 things we're going to talk about:

1. *The Experience of His Love.* The experience of His love.
2. *The Expectation of Our Lord.* The expectation of our Lord.
3. *The Evidence of Our Love.* The evidence of our love.

1. *The Experience of His Love.* Do you know at this time Peter, before the Lord asked Him the question, the Lord first of all made him to experience His love because, you know, what had happened to Peter? We're reading from chapter 21 of John, verse 3: ***"Simon Peter saith unto them, 'I go a fishing.' They say unto him, 'We also go with thee.' They went forth, and entered***

into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, 'Children, have ye any meat?' They answered him, 'No.'"

The Lord, here, showed His mercy, His compassion, His love unto Peter and the rest of them. Number 1: before He expected them to show love unto Him, He manifested love unto them...compassion, mercy unto them. He came to them and He said, "Do you have any meat to eat." And they said, "No." *"And he said unto them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.' They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes."* That's love. That's love. He blessed them abundantly, beyond what they deserved. He blessed them abundantly, beyond their expectation. He showed them the mercy and the compassion beyond what they merited. That is love. He made them first of all to experience His love before demanding of them His expectation of love.

In verse 7, *"Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, 'It is the Lord.' Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread."*

What's that? The Lord wanted to show them His own love by feeding them. If He was going to demand that Peter will show His love, demonstrate His love, manifest His love by feeding His sheep, he, too, the Shepherd, He will demonstrate His love and manifest His love and He will reveal that love by feeding them...His sheep, the sheep of His fold. Therefore there was bread and there was fish.

Then in verse 10: *"Jesus saith unto them, 'Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.' Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. Jesus saith unto them, 'Come and dine.'"* Come and dine.

He first of all showed them His love. They experienced His love. It is after He had made them to experience His love, He now demanded of Peter, "Do you love Me? You denied Me but I came to you now. You forsook the ministry but I've come to you now. You drew other people to go a fishing with you, but I came to you now. Then you even went back and reversed your consecration, but I came to you now.

I'm feeding you now, miraculously. I told you to throw your net down there and you caught a lot. Now I tell you, 'Come and dine.' Now that you have experienced My love, can I tell you My expectation? That what I have done unto you, you will do unto Me. The love I have revealed unto you, you, too, will reveal that to Me. You will demonstrate that and manifest that unto Me."

"Lovest thou Me?" "Yes, Lord, I love you." Then..."I have fed you because I love you. Feed My lambs. Feed My sheep." Come and dine. In verse 12: *"And none of the disciples durst ask him, 'Who art thou?' knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth*

them, and fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. So when they had dined..." When they had experienced His love, when they had partaken of His provision, when they had dined "*... Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, 'Lovest thou me more than these?'*" Number 1, then, is *The Experience of His Love*.

John, chapter 13, verse 1: "*Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world...*" We're told "*...he loved them unto...*" Unto when? "*...unto the end.*" He demonstrated that love first. He loved them unto the very end. The experience of His love. That is what He has done for us. He has loved us so much. He has manifested that love. He has saved our souls. He has healed our sicknesses. He has destroyed every yoke in our lives. He has set us free. We need to experience that love. It is after we have experienced that love, we'll be able to now demonstrate that love for Christ.

Ephesians, chapter 2, I'm reading from verse 4: "*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love...*" For his great love. "*...wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*" It says, "He has demonstrated His love." We have experienced that love. Saved by His love. Saved by His mercy. Saved by His grace. Because of that mercy and grace and love which we have experienced...it is only after that He is demanding from us: "Lovest thou Me?" He has even raised us up now to sit with Him in heavenly places.

In Ephesians, chapter 5, I'm reading from verse 25: "*Husbands, love your wives...*" Husbands, love your wives. "*...even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.*" See that. We experience His love first...that love flowing from Calvary. It is that example of love and it is that pattern of love that Jesus Christ demonstrated. He gave everything for the church. He's saying, "Husband, give everything you've got to your wife and demonstrate that love." If you have experienced the love of Calvary, then demonstrate Calvary-love in your home, in your family.

Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church, and He gave Himself for the church "*... That he might sanctify...*" Your love should sanctify. Your love should cleanse. Your love should purify. Your love should make your wife, your children, your family, to feel cleaner, purer than they ever were. They should be grateful to you that they married a man like you that has experienced the love of Christ. Therefore you are able to manifest that same pattern of love of the Lord Jesus Christ in your family.

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself..." What kind of church? Tell me out loud. "*...a glorious church.*" That's the desire of the Lord. That's the plan of the Lord. That's the goal. That's the dream of the Lord. That's what Jesus Christ expected when He died on the cross. If you are for Christ, if you are with Christ, if you are holding hands and joining hands with Christ, that same goal will be your goal. You'll want the church to be, not a polluted church, not a corrupt church, not a backslidden

church, and not a lukewarm church, and not a church that is defiled, a church that the world is eating the very heart out; you will want the church to be a glorious church.

And then it says in verse 27, **"...not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."** That's the love we have experienced. I pray that that love we have experienced, we will be able to demonstrate that as well in Jesus' name.

In 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2, verse 16: **"Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us..."** He has loved us. He first of all made us to experience His love. It is after that experience of His love that now we are now called upon to demonstrate, to show, to manifest that love to the people around us. He has loved **"...and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace."**

He tells us in John, chapter 15, verse 9...You will see, then, what He expects. It says in verse 9, **"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."** We have experienced that. That's how we were saved. We have experienced that. That's how we were healed. We have experienced that. That's how glory came to our souls. We have experienced that. That's how forgiveness has come, regeneration has come, eternal life has come.

We have experienced that...that love of Christ. That's why we can go now without condemnation, without guilt. There's no condemnation now for those who walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. We have experienced that, the love of Christ that is shed abroad on the cross of Calvary. It is after that experience of love coming from Christ into our hearts, into our lives, that we now go forth and we manifest that love of Christ unto other people. It says, **"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."** We'll continue in Jesus' name. I said, "We'll continue in Jesus' name."

In Revelation, chapter 3, verse 9: **"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved..."** you. Why has He bound our enemies? Why has He subdued our enemies? Why has He conquered our enemies? Why has He set us free from the chains and the fetters and the bondage of our enemies? Why has He set our heart free?

Then He said, "You can go forth now and succeed because all your enemies are defeated." Because of His love. Because of His love. "I will make them of the synagogue of Satan. I will make them to fall down before you and bow before you. I will prove to them that I have loved you."

The experience of His love. It's after that experience of loving us, showing that love to us, manifesting that love to us, He now is asking the question, *Do you love Me?* "I love you. I feed you. I deliver you. I set you free. I saved you. I brought you to Myself. I make you to sit in heavenly places together with Me. And I'm even planning...you're going to be in that great mansion when you get to heaven. You are going to reign with me a thousand years. I've shown My love to you from every direction. Lovest thou Me?"

That leads us to point number 2: *The Expectation of Our Lord*. What does our Lord expect? We're looking at John, chapter 21, the first part of verse 15: **"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?'"** That shows His expectation. He's looking for something. He's asking for something. He's not just asking for activity. You know somebody can have activity without the grace and the love that goes with it.

It's like in the family, the husband and the wife. You know sometimes the wife will cook delicious food and say, "This is my duty, I'll do it." But then, maybe there's rancor in the home, conflict in the home, disagreement at home. The wife is saying, "The man is not treating me well. The man is just a bad man, a terrible man. He's not treating me well. But I'll still do my duty. I'll put the food there." But the love is missing. The Lord is not just asking for activity. He's not just asking for demonstration of skill. He's asking for the love. "Lovest thou Me more than all these?" That's what the Lord is asking. He has a great expectation.

Look at chapter 21, verse 16...the first part again: **"He saith to him again the second time, 'Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?'"** That repetition means *I want to get an answer. I want to get a response. I want to get a response that is coming from the depths of the heart.* "Lovest thou Me?" The expectation of our Lord, that He wants us to show and to demonstrate that love unto Him, to forget every other thing and every other person around and just to concentrate: *This is for my Lord.*

I want to show that love. Chapter 21 of John, verse 17...the first part again: **"He saith unto him the third time, 'Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?'"** He was asking for that love. The expectation, the expectation - what the Lord is expecting from you. He's done a lot for us during this retreat. He saved many souls, and healed many people, and delivered many people, and set many people free, and provided for many people, and He conquered all your enemies. I said, "He conquered all your enemies." The Lord is saying now, "You have experienced My love. I've shown My love unto you. What are you going to do to reciprocate? What are you going to do to show back that you appreciate all the love I have given unto you?"

Let's look at Matthew, chapter 10, I'm reading there from verse 37: **"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."** That shows His expectation. His expectation is *we'll exalt Him*: we'll lift Him high above father, above mother, above any human being on earth. We'll lift Him high. It says, "He who loves father or loves mother more than me is not worthy of me."

Can you think about every personality, every person in your life...the father, the mother, a husband, a wife, a son, a daughter, an employer, an employee, a friend, a partner, a counselor, an adviser, a helper, a provider, somebody by your side...can you think of somebody in your own heart that you'll say, "If that person leaves the church, I'm sorry, I might have to leave because I love him so much. If that person leaves Christ, goes away from Christ, I'm sorry, I might have to leave, leave Christ." You love somebody more than Christ.

Jesus said, **"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."** That shows the expectation of our

Lord, that He wants you to rate Him high, place Him high, exalt Him high in your life, and love Him above every person by your side.

We're looking at Revelation, chapter 2, and we're reading from verse 4 and verse 5:

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." It shows His expectation very clearly, the thing He's looking for. The one solitary thing and the one indispensable thing the Lord is looking for is our love. He says, "Because this is what I'm looking for, demonstrate that, show that every step of the way." Every day of your life demonstrate that love of Christ. He says, "The first love. The first love. The first love."

What's the first love? The love you had when you were born again. At that time, maybe you were not married. The love you had for the Lord before you got married. Maybe you didn't have any child but you loved the Lord, you loved the Bible study, and then you loved the retreat and you loved the conferences and nothing will make you to miss any gathering of the people of God. That time you didn't have children. But now you have children. Do you still love God more than that time or the same as that time? Or do you say, "Now you see, there are many children here. I have to provide for this and provide for this." The Lord is saying, "You have left your first love."

What's the first love? The love you had before you had any responsibility in the church, any position in the church. Position was not your consideration. You just loved the Lord. You ran to the church and ran to the retreat and you ran to the conference and there was no responsibility. That's not because you're going to sing in the choir. It's not because you're going to officiate as a preacher. It's not because you are going to teach a seminar. It's not because you are going to lead a Bible study. Nobody even knew you. You just knew the Lord. You and the Lord alone, before that time you became a worker, you just loved the Lord.

How about that now? The first love, the first love. How you were committed to the Lord. Before you had position and promotion in your place of work, you were just one of the low level workers there, but you held onto your Bible. You held onto the Word of God. Every time the Bible study was coming, you would be running to the Bible study. They say, "Hey, look at this. If you're so committed to your church and to your Bible study, you'll never have promotion here. You will remain at that ground level and you'll not be able climb up. If you're looking for promotion, you must be able to do the overtime." You say, "Nothing will take the Bible study away from me."

Now the Lord looked at your faithfulness and the Lord has promoted you. Where are you, now? Director, manager, you are the owner of your own business. The question I'm asking you is *Do you still love the Lord like you loved the Lord when you had nothing?* That's what the Lord is saying.

Look at verse 4...the expectation of the Lord that that same first love, before you married, before you had children, before you got any job, any position of responsibility in the church, and before you had any promotion in your place of work...before money came in, before you had a car, before you had accommodation...and look at all these beautiful halls now where we are.

At the first time, when we had our retreat in 1975, we didn't have all this. '76, we didn't have all this. In 1976, in Baptist Academy we were preaching and the rain began to fall profusely. It was pouring down. The people sat there and I stood there preaching to them all in the rain. Nobody moved. The first love. But today, how is it? Now you're under shelter and you're under this beautiful environment. You're sitting there on a good chair. Now what if that is not there? Will you still show the love? Would you say, "Accommodation or no accommodation, privilege or no privilege, responsibility or no responsibility...I'm going there because I love the Lord." That's what the Lord is saying. The first love.

Look at this again in Revelation, chapter 2, verse 4: ***"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."*** We will repent. I said, "We'll repent." We'll get back that first love into our heart once again in Jesus' name. Whatever condition we find ourselves, whatever responsibility we have or we do not have, we're going to remain faithful to the Lord until the very end.

Do you remember what persecution you suffered when you first came to the Lord? ...The insults and the abuse and the beating and the scourging and the denial of your privilege and the way they drove you out and the way they tortured you, tormented you, and the way they spoiled your name. And you said, "I don't care what the devil tries to do with those persecutors. I'm going to follow the Lord until the very end." That was the first love.

The question is *Do you still have that love now?* If somebody will threaten you, abuse you, insult you, torture you, torment you, persecute you, and falsely speak evil things against you, do you still have that love? That you'd be able to say, "I know how I loved the Lord in those early days." The love of those early days will come back to our hearts in Jesus' name. Give me a good *amen* there...That's the first love the Lord is expecting.

We're looking at John, chapter 14. As we look at John, chapter 14, we'll see the expectation of our Lord. John, chapter 14, verse 15: ***"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*** ***"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*** Wasn't that the most important thing to us in those early days when we first knew the Lord? Any little disagreement between you and a man, a woman working in your place of work...in the night it disturbs your mind. "I should've had no argument between me and that person...I'm born again," and you know they are not born again. "How should I allow a kind of conflict between me and that woman as she doesn't know the Lord? I know the Lord." All through the night you're rolling and you're telling the Lord, "Oh Lord, I wake up in the morning and I get to the office, and the very first thing I'm going to do...I'm going to apologize to that woman."

Then you wake up in the morning. You go and then you say, "Madam, I'm very sorry for what happened yesterday, for the argument of yesterday. I'm very sorry for what I said. I don't have any right to have said something like this. Please forgive me." That woman is looking at you like an angel. The woman is saying, "But I was the one that even insulted you. Why are you coming to me? I am the one that should come to you." You say, "Madam, don't worry about who is right

or who is wrong. I am sorry." That was the first love because you remembered the love that you ought to have toward Christ.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." In those early days, I still remember. In Flat 2. We were going to have a retreat and then I called somebody and I said, "You are going to give this message." The person just said, "I'm sorry." (At that time they used to call me Bible Study Leader). "I'm sorry, Leader, I cannot do that." I said, "What?" He said that "Because I need to settle something with my wife at home, and until I settle that, because Jesus said, 'If you bring your gift to the altar, and there you remember somebody has ought against you, go and reconcile with them first, and then come and offer thy gift.' " And he said, "I've not had the chance to apologize to my wife and settle what is between us."

That was the first love...that, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." The commandment of the Lord is that you don't allow any evil, anything, any disagreement, any offense between you and another person. The Lord is saying, "Do you really love Me? I expect that if you love Me, you will keep My commandments. My commandment will be at the center of your heart, at the center of your life. You'll keep on obeying Me, whatever the cost and whatever people might say and whatever people might think about you." It is just that that shows that we love the Lord. We're going to bring back that love. I said, "We'll bring back that love." Your love will not grow cold. Your love will not disappear.

In Matthew, chapter 24, I'm reading verse 11: ***"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."*** But they will not deceive me. I said, "They will not deceive me." How about you? I said, "How about you?" Now think about it. Look up brothers and sisters. What if after all these years from 1973...this is 2009. Now you have 36 years...almost. What if I'd allowed any of those false prophets to deceive me and buy in into that false doctrine and give in to this erroneous doctrine? What would've happened to you? What kind of word would you be receiving?

The same thing with you: For the sake of your life, for the sake of your family, and for the sake of the people that are looking up to you, for the sake of the people that are expecting the bread of life from you, whatever false prophets are in the land, you'll not allow them to catch you. They will not captivate your mind. They will not captivate your soul in Jesus' name.

You know, it's surprising at this time...sometimes I ask about, "How about Brother so-and-so?" Sometimes I that think...the latter part of last month and the earlier part of this month...I went to a particular place to preach. We had a great, great time there. Then with the people who were with me...I said, "How about Brother So-and-so...is he still there?" "Oh," they said, "No, he's no more there." I used to go to that place before and that man would be all the time there...be here or be here or be there. Then they said, "He's not there anymore." I said, "What happened?" They said, "He went to..." Then they mentioned the church.

You know what? I think maybe he was looking for miracle. He was looking for deliverance or looking for this and that. Maybe he was sick. Maybe he had one of the members of the family sick. Maybe he went to the local pastor there and maybe the healing did not come in time. And because of that, he felt, *I'll go to another place*. Are you following the Lord because He'll take

away your sickness every time? After all, He said, "In my Father's house are mansions." Have you heard that before? "If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." You'll be there. I said, "You'll be there."

Jesus heals. Jesus delivers. But when it's time for you to go home, it's time for you to go to that mansion He has prepared for you. It may be the last sickness that will come. And He would say, "I didn't come to make you suffer. I came to transport you from here to the mansion I've prepared for you." That man did not realize that. Then he went to another place. You will not go. You will not leave. You will not say, "Because I am sick, because this has happened to me, because that has happened to me, I'm going to look for another place." There is no other place. I said, "There is no other place." It is good for us to be here. I'll be here. I said, "I will be here."

That's what the Lord is saying...that you will not allow the false prophets that are building tents here, raising up a ministry there, having another place there, and they're bringing a lot of deceit. You will not allow them to deceive you. You will not be deceived.

Look at verse 11 again: **"...many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound..."** Tell me the rest. Tell me the rest. **"...the love of many shall wax cold."** My love will not wax cold. Whoever backslides and whoever stands, I will stand. I said, "I will stand." How about you? You will stand in Jesus' name. **"But he that shall endure unto the end..."** Think about that...endure, endure, endure. When do you use the word *endure*? When there is pain...endure. When there's a problem...endure. When there is pressure...endure.

We don't endure something pleasant, we enjoy that one. We don't endure something sweet. You are not taking milk, sugar, and tea...and it's so sweet in your mouth, and then you tell people, "I am enduring this." No. You *enjoy* what is pleasant. You *enjoy* what is good. You *enjoy* what is sweet. When it says *endure*, it means *there may be pain*. *There may be pressure*. *There may be problem*. *There may be persecution*. The world may throw something negative at you. That's when we use the word *endure*. The Lord Jesus said, "Whoever...he that shall endure the pain, endure the persecution, endure the pressure unto the end, the same shall be saved." You will endure to the end.

1. *The Experience of His Love.*
2. *The Expectation of Our Lord.*
3. *The Evidence of Our Love.*

The Evidence of Our Love. We're looking at John, chapter 21, I'm reading from the second part of verse 15. After Jesus asked the question, "Lovest thou me?" then Simon Peter said unto Him...in that verse 15, the second part: **"Yea Lord..."** [Yes Lord.] **"...thou knowest that I love thee."** "If you love, me then...**He saith unto him, 'Feed my lambs.'**" That's the evidence....feed my lambs, feed my lambs.

Look up brothers and sisters. Those lambs may not be in one congregation, but "feed my lambs." Those lambs may not all be gathered in Jerusalem, but "feed my lambs." Those lambs may not all be in Judea, but "feed my lambs." Those lambs may not all be in Samaria. They may in the utter most part of the earth and "they're mine; feed my lambs."

"Peter, do you understand?" "Yes, I think I do." "If you do understand, why is it you remain only in Jerusalem. How about Judea? How about Samaria? Feed my Lambs.

Peter, do you understand?" "Yes I think I do." "If you do, why is it when God called you to go to the house of Cornelius...and then you know the other people that do not have understanding, they will not understand you are going to the Gentile, you are going to Cornelius. Why did you say, 'Nothing unclean has ever entered my mouth'? Peter, do you understand? Feed my sheep." "Yes, I think I do."

"I don't think, Peter, you understand because you are so much afraid of what the other apostles, the other Jews, and the other people that they think that if you're going to keep to the commission, the commandment of Christ, you must stay only with the Jews. Peter, the Jews are just a single nation." He said, "This word of repentance must be preached in *all* nations." The Jews were not up to one percent of the population of the world. They all stayed in Jerusalem. Here we come to Deeper Life. The Lord is saying, "The evidence of your love is to feed the lambs and to feed the sheep." What does that mean? Only feed the sheep in Deeper Life? Only feed the lambs in Deeper Life?

Somebody asked me a question...I think it was last week. They said, "Pastor, what if I'm invited to a place where they don't believe what we believe? They don't stand for what we stand for. Here we are to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered unto the saints." I said, "Yes, that's true." "What then if they invite me to a place where they don't believe?" I said, "How will they believe since they don't understand? Did Jesus die for them?" "Yes, I believe He died for them." "Then, go there and show them the efficacy of the death of Jesus Christ."

What if, for example now...look up brothers and sisters...your child is in a school and the principal of that school was a member of Deeper Life, but he's no more in Deeper Life. But maybe when your child entered the school, he was still a member of Deeper Life. Now, your child is still in that school but he's no more a member of Deeper Life. He's in another ministry, whatever. Then he's inviting you and he says, "Come and establish Deeper Life's schools outreach in my school." Your child is there. Some of our children are there. He says, "Come and establish Deeper Life's schools outreach in my school. Come every morning and talk to the assembly. Come and tell them about salvation, about the way to succeed. Come and tell them about life eternal."

Then you say, "Because of that principal who was a member of Deeper Life and is no more a member of Deeper Life...let all the children there, let them perish if they are going to perish. I will never go to any place where somebody who is no more a member of our church where he is. Then I'm going to deny all those innocent children of the Word of life." Church, would that be right? Tell me out loud. If they invite us to such a place like that, should we go? Of course! We're not going because of the man. We're going because of those multitudes under his leadership.

Maybe you have heard I've gone to...we have what we call "Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria." I was going to have a program arranged with our pastor in Abuja FCT. I said, "I'll be coming

over there. We wanted to have a crusade just with Deeper Life. Then when the PFN in that place, when they heard they said, "No. Pastor Kumuyi cannot come for Deeper Life alone. He's our father." Then the pastor called me back and said, "PFN will not allow me to do it alone. They all want to join." I said, "Who is the chairman of that PFN there?" He mentioned his name. He happened to be somebody who was a state overseer in Deeper Life before, but now he has gone out of Deeper Life. He has established his own ministry. So he said, "But Pastor, I'm afraid because of Brother So-and-so is the chairman there now...can we still go ahead?" I said, "Yes, go ahead. Go ahead. Go ahead. We're going to minister to those people." Then I got there. And this brother, I'm telling you, I'm telling you...he announced openly...he said, "Now, I'm chairman of PFN and you have been wondering, *Who is my father?*" He said, "This is my father." Amen. Amen.

He told everybody...he said, "Every good thing I ever learnt, every good thing I ever knew...It is this man, the General Superintendent of Deeper Life Bible Church that taught me everything." They gathered all the pastors together in the Ministers' Conference. We had nearly 16,000 ministers and workers together. They learnt the Word of God. We went from chapter to chapter. We almost finished the book of Jeremiah. I preached 10 messages, going from one place to the other, one place to the other. He was the one that was making all the announcements. We sat there on the platform. Then he said, "He is my father. I am not a bastard. I'm a good son."

Now, what should I do? Does that mean I'm no more contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints? Contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints does not mean that I will not preach to people who do not know what I know. Contending for the faith simply means when I go there, I will not compromise the Word, I will not cheapen the Word, and I will not take anything away from the Word.

By the time we finished, all those ministers were saying they never saw anything like this in their lives. Then we had crusades. We went from place to place to place – in 5 places. Every crusade they filled, he would stand up there and announce to everybody. Then we saw some miracles we never ever saw in our lives.

Now how do we deny hundreds of thousands of people because the gate man, because the chairman was with us before and is no more with us now, and because of that we deny hundreds of thousands of people from hearing the Word of life? We will not do that. The whole world is our missionary field. Whether they were here before, they're no more here...whether they are this religion, that religion...anywhere the call comes, we're going to go there and do what the Lord has called us to do. We're going to do it effectively in Jesus' name.

Some of you may not know...I used to go everywhere. I still take my stand. Many years ago they invited me to come to Celestial Church to preach. Did you hear that before? Praise the Lord. Did I go? Of course, I went. Praise the Lord. When I got to the gate of the church, they confronted me. They said, "Remove your shoes." I said, "No, sir, I'm not a member of your church. You invited me because you saw something in me I'm going to give to you." I said, "I don't remove my shoes."

They said, "You cannot come in except you take off your shoes." Then I stood there. Then the evangelist/prophet came with his white garments and with the yellow band. He had no shoes. He said, "Leave him alone. Leave him alone. We invited him. Let him come in." Praise the Lord.

I went in there and I delivered the message. Going there does not mean we are not contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints. When I preached there, I gave the altar call, and some people came to know the Lord as their personal Savior. Then they came to the Bible study. I'm telling you, now, some of our significant full-time workers here at the headquarters...I don't know what we're going to do without him because all these designs you see and the various things you see and the beautiful things you see, he was in that Celestial Church.

It's by going there and declaring the Word of God that brought him out of that place. Now he's a child of God. Not only that, he is a minister of God. Not only that, he was even an overseer. Not only that, he's doing a great, great work for the Kingdom in this church. That's why we're saying that the love we demonstrate, "Feed my sheep." They may not all be in Jerusalem or Judea or Samaria. They may be in some places, wherever they are...in the prison, in the hospital, in the occult, in the universities, in the secondary school, in the primary school, in the place where they are not preaching sound doctrine...anywhere they are, and we have opportunity of going there, we'll go there. We're not going there to compromise, we're going there to preach Christ, and we will feed the people in Jesus' name.

We're looking at Jeremiah, chapter 3, verse 15. It's to feed, it's to feed, it's to feed them, the people of God everywhere. You will have part in that, and we're going to feed them in Jesus' name. In Jeremiah, chapter 3, I'm reading from verse 15: ***"And I will give you pastors..."*** [in the plural] ***"...according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."*** "I will give you pastors which shall feed you with knowledge and with understanding." I pray that the Lord will make you that kind of pastor. You say, "But I'm not a pastor." I'm just saying that you are going to be a pastor. I said, "You are going to be a pastor." You say, "I'm just a new convert." Yeah, that's all right. But you are going to be a pastor. When you become that pastor, you will feed the people of God with knowledge, with understanding in Jesus' name.

Jeremiah, chapter 23, verse 4: ***"And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them."*** When you love the Lord that's what you do. You may not even be a pastor now, but you can feed your neighbor with the Word of God, the Word of life. You can feed everyone, even those who are not coming to the church and they belong to another church. You can take that Bible study outline and can feed them. Feed them with the Word.

Then you can have satellite locations. In fact, last week, if my memory serves me right, we had more than 500 churches asking for satellite...just because we held that program. What a wonderful thing! As many people want to hook up with us and link up with us for the Bible Study, they say, "We want to be drinking now from the same fountain." I pray that what we're doing in the leadership, you, too, you will do in Jesus' name.

In Jeremiah, chapter 23, verse 4: ***"And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more..."*** [You'll not fear again.] ***"...nor be dismayed, neither shall they***

be lacking,' saith the LORD.' When we love you, we feed you. There will no lack in your life anymore. All the lack, all the limitation is taken away from your life.

In Acts of the Apostles, chapter 20, verse 28: *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock..."* All the flock, all the flock. Remember what Jesus said about the flock: "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold, which are not of this flock, them I must bring in." So understand what the flock is, whether they are here or they are there, whether they're in Deeper Life or outside Deeper Life. Wherever the flock is, we're going to feed them. I said, "We're going to feed them."

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God..." To feed the church of God. *"...which he hath purchased with his own blood."* As you go on doing that, signs and wonders will never stop in your life. As we're leaving this retreat, we are going to take this love of Christ everywhere we go. Anybody you meet is a candidate for that love. Anybody you come across is a candidate for that love.

You'll show that love to them and you'll bring them to the Kingdom because we're told in Mark, chapter 16, verse 15: *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to..."* To? Some of those creatures are in the "Celestial". Some of those creatures are in Cherubim and Seraphim. Some of those creatures are in the Catholic Church. Some of those creatures are in the Anglican-Methodist church. Some of those creatures... *"preach the gospel to every creature."* Some of them are in CAN, Christian Association of Nigeria. Some of those creatures are in the PFN, Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria. Some of those creatures are here and there. They are everywhere.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe." Are you that one? Where are you? I can't see you. Where are you? Are you there? Are you there? I'll see your face when you stand up. You look at me eyeball to eyeball. These signs will follow you. These signs will follow you. These signs will follow you. Are you ready? Don't pray yet. I'm telling you something.

Last week, after we finished, some people had a chance of shaking my hands. Then somebody came to me and said, "As I shake your hand now, I will not touch anything. I'm going to a place where there's a problem. I will lay my hand on that problem. I know that problem will vanish away."

Here you are today. Here you are today. Here you are today. God will bless those hands. Anointing will come on those hands. Mighty things will take place in Jesus' name. These signs will follow you because you believe. In His name you will cast out devils. In His name you will speak with new tongues. It is not only me, now I'm transferring it to you. That same power, that same anointing you have heard about, it is transferred to your life in Jesus' name.

You will take up serpents, and if you drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt you. You will lay those hands on the sick and they shall recover. *"So then after the Lord had spoken unto them,*

he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth." You will go forth. They *"... preached every where, the Lord working with them..."* The Lord will work with you. *"...and confirming [your] word with signs following."* The word of your mouth will be fulfilled in Jesus' name.

Open your mouth and tell the Lord now, "I carry the anointing. Now I possess the anointing." You have it. You have it already. It is confirmed. You have it. You have it. Go everywhere the call comes, everywhere the need arises. Go there and the power of the Lord will never fail in your life. Show your love. Show your love. Show your love to the Lord.

He has saved you. He has redeemed you. He has set you free. He has reconciled you to the Heavenly Father. He has conquered all your enemies. He has set you free. He has broken every chain. He has snapped the fetters. And He has said He pronounced success and victory upon your life. Now you can go in the strength of the Lord, in the power of the Lord. Go and succeed. Go and succeed. Go and demonstrate the love of Christ. Go and show it. Go and show it. Go and show it. The signs will follow you. You will not fail. You will not fall. You will not be defeated. No oppression again. You are victorious. In Jesus' name we pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you today. We thank you for the wonders of the cross. We thank you for the wonders coming from Calvary. We thank you because of the wonders flowing into every life from the crucifixion that you experienced for us on the cross of Calvary. Lord, I bring every brother, every sister, every minister, every worker, every child, every youth, everyone...I bring everyone to you. I pray that that victory coming from the cross will come to every life now in Jesus' name.

I pray, Lord, all the tears will be wiped away; all the sorrows will be taken away, all the grief that you have carried away will not return again in Jesus' name. I pray that your glory will beam and shine forth in every life from now on in Jesus' name. I pray that your people will go from strength to strength, from one level of authority to another level of authority. I pray, Lord, they will lack nothing. They will miss nothing. Every blessing you have pronounced upon them during this retreat will be permanent in Jesus' name.

Your protection will go with them. Your power will go with them. Your resources will go with them. I pray that you'll supply all their needs according to your riches in glory by Christ Jesus in Jesus' name. I pray, Lord, where there was weakness before, now there's strength. Where there was poverty, now there's prosperity. Where there was sin, there's now righteousness. Where there was defeat, there is now dominion. I thank You, Lord, because I know from now on your people will never lack any good thing in Jesus' name.

As your people are marching forth now, it will be like a great army. It will be like a mighty army. Every dark thing, every negative thing will clear out of the way before them in Jesus' name. You will trample upon the serpents, upon the adder. You'll trample upon the lions, upon the evil beasts. And nothing will bring you down in Jesus' name. While you go, signs and wonders will follow you. In your families, signs and wonders will follow you. In your place work, signs and wonders will follow you. Everywhere you tread will belong to you. Every place the sole of your foot should tread upon, it shall belong to you in Jesus' name.

You will conquer the giants in the land. They will clear out of the way for you. You will possess the land. You will possess the land. You will possess the land. And as you're going in the righteousness of the Lord, everywhere you go, there will be righteousness there, and there will be holiness there. Rivers and rivers and oceans of righteousness will fill this land through you in Jesus' name. While you're serving the Lord and working for the Lord and the Lord is blessing many people through you, the blessing of the Lord will never stop in your life. The blessing of the Lord will keep on flowing in your life.

Go back home rejoicing. Go back home celebrating. Go back home in the blessing of the Lord in Jesus' name. Remember, you are now the head; you will never be the tail. You are up; you will not be down. You have climbed onto the mountaintop of the provision of the Lord; you'll not come to the valley of need and poverty anymore in Jesus' name. Go in this thy might, and go and succeed. Thank you Lord because we know you have answered. We know you have answered. In Jesus' name we pray. And the people of God said...