

## Strengthen Thy Brethern Lesson 5 – Be Strong In Love

### Key Verses

**1 Peter 1:6-7** <sup>6</sup> Wherein (all about the great salvation) ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold (divers) temptations: <sup>7</sup> 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** praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**1 Peter 1:8-10** <sup>8</sup> **Whom (Jesus) having not seen**, ye **love**; in whom (Jesus), though now ye see *him* (Jesus) not, **yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory**: <sup>9</sup> **Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls**. <sup>10</sup> **Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently**, who **prophesied of the grace that should come unto you**:

Walking by Faith and not by sight. Having faith in God for the eternal nature of our heavenly bodies to come.

**2 Corinthians 5:1-7** <sup>1</sup> For we know that **if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved**, we **have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens**. <sup>2</sup> For **in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven**: <sup>3</sup> If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For **we that are in this tabernacle do groan**, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, **but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life**. <sup>5</sup> Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, **who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit**. <sup>6</sup> Therefore **we are always confident**, knowing that, **whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord**: <sup>7</sup> (For **we walk by faith, not by sight**:)

Our salvation has been foreordained in Christ before the foundation of the world. God knew that man would fall based upon the free will nature. But only through that free will nature can there be true love. So God the Father demonstrated His infinite love in the sacrificial offering of His Son, Jesus.

**Revelation 13:8**<sup>8</sup> And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (the *antichrist*), whose **names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

**Hebrews 9:24-28**<sup>24</sup> **For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:**<sup>25</sup> **Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;**<sup>26</sup> For then **must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world:** but now **once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:<sup>28</sup> **So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

Jesus said on the cross that the sacrificial work was finished. "It is finished"

## Blessed are the eyes which see Christ through the word

**Luke 10:1-2** <sup>1</sup> After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. <sup>2</sup> Therefore said he unto them, **The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.**

**Luke 10:17-24** <sup>17</sup> And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. <sup>18</sup> And he said unto them, **I beheld Satan** as lightning fall from heaven. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. <sup>21</sup> In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, **I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.** <sup>22</sup> All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and *he* to whom the Son will reveal *him*. <sup>23</sup> And he turned him unto *his* disciples, and said privately, **Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:** <sup>24</sup> For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

**John 3:3** <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

**Romans 10:17** <sup>17</sup> So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

## Thomas, seeing Jesus, believed. Blessed are those who don't see yet believe

**John 20:19-31** <sup>19</sup> Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.** <sup>20</sup> And when he had so said, **he shewed unto them his hands and his side.** Then were the disciples glad, **when they saw the Lord.** <sup>21</sup> Then said Jesus to them again, **Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.** <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:** <sup>23</sup> **Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.** <sup>24</sup> But **Thomas**, one of the twelve, called Didymus, **was not with them** when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, **Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.** <sup>26</sup> And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, **Peace be unto you.** <sup>27</sup> Then saith he to Thomas, **Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.** <sup>28</sup> And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. <sup>29</sup> Jesus saith unto him, **Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.** <sup>30</sup> And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: <sup>31</sup> **But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.**

**Mark 16:9-15** <sup>9</sup> Now when *Jesus* was risen early the first *day* of the week, he appeared first to **Mary Magdalene**, out of whom he had cast seven devils. <sup>10</sup> *And* she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. <sup>11</sup> *And* they, when **they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.** <sup>12</sup> After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. <sup>13</sup> *And* **they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.** <sup>14</sup> Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and **upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.** <sup>15</sup> *And* he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

**Hebrews 11:6** <sup>6</sup> But **without faith it is impossible to please him:** for 1) he that cometh to God **must believe that he is,** and *that* 2) **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

## The Possibility of a Sightless Love

It is possible for us to love God without physically seeing Him. This is only possible in that He loved us before we ever could love Him.

**1 John 4:10-19** <sup>10</sup> Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. <sup>19</sup> We love him, because he first loved us.

**John 3:16-17** <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

**Romans 5:8-10** <sup>8</sup> But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. <sup>10</sup> For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

The Lord Jesus loves us before we ever come to know him or know of Him

Two words we need to understand 1) Relationship and 2) Fellowship.

1) **Relationship** – When we are born again, we become children of God.

This is our relationship with God. Nothing can take God away from us or take us from God. (John 1:12, John 10 27-29)

**John 1:12** <sup>12</sup> *But as many as received him, to them gave he power (the right) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

**John 10:27-30** <sup>27</sup> *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:* <sup>28</sup> *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* <sup>29</sup> *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.* <sup>30</sup> *I and my Father are one.*

- 2) **Fellowship** – In our fellowship with Christ, we learn more of the depth of His love for us and our love for Him grows. It is possible that if sin enters into our lives, our fellowship with Christ can be hindered, but that still does not change the fact that we have a relationship, as an adopted child of God.

**Revelation 3:20** <sup>20</sup> *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.*

**Galatians 4:1-7** <sup>1</sup> *Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;* <sup>2</sup> *But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.* <sup>3</sup> *Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:* <sup>4</sup> *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,* <sup>5</sup> *To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.* <sup>6</sup> *And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.* <sup>7</sup> *Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

## The Preeminence of Sightless Love

Jesus must have the preeminence in all things

**Colossians 1:15-21** <sup>15</sup> Who (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: <sup>16</sup> For by him (Jesus) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. <sup>19</sup> For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; <sup>20</sup> And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. <sup>21</sup> And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

**Philippians 2:5-11** <sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; <sup>11</sup> And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What do we love? Self, family, others, friends, things and the world. Christ must have the preeminence in our love

**Matthew 22:36-40** <sup>36</sup> Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? <sup>37</sup> Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

*(Basis for above) Deuteronomy 6:1-6* <sup>1</sup> Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: <sup>2</sup> That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. <sup>3</sup> Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. <sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: <sup>5</sup> And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. <sup>6</sup> And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

**John 21:15-17** <sup>15</sup> So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, **Simon, son of Jonas, 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. <sup>16</sup> He saith to him again the second time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.** <sup>17</sup> He saith unto him the third time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou 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, **Feed my sheep.**

**Revelation 2:1-5** <sup>1</sup> Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; <sup>2</sup> **I know thy works,** and thy **labour,** and thy **patience,** and **how thou canst not bear them which are evil:** and thou **hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:** <sup>3</sup> And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, **because thou hast left thy first love.** <sup>5</sup> 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 must keep Jesus in His rightful place as preeminence in our love. If He is not there, we must repent.

## The Power of the Sightless Love

When people do not serve the Lord, it is evident that they do not love Him.

**Mark 10:42-45** <sup>42</sup> But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them, **Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.** <sup>43</sup> But so shall it not be among you: but **whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:** <sup>44</sup> And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the **Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**

Our love for the Lord should grow as we get to know Him more day by day. We **should not be working for the Lord out of obligation, but we should be motivated out of love for Him.**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13** <sup>1</sup> Though **I speak with the tongues of men** and of angels, and **have not charity,** I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And though **I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith,** so that I could remove mountains, and **have not charity, I am nothing.** <sup>3</sup> And though I **bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned,** and **have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.** <sup>4</sup> **Charity:**

- suffereth long, kind, envieth not, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up
- Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own,
- is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil
- Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth
- Beareth all things. believeth all things, hopeth all things
- endureth all things, never faileth
- And **now abideth faith, hope, charity,** these three; but the **greatest of these is charity.**

John 14:15 <sup>15</sup> **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

**Matthew 5:14-16** <sup>14</sup> **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.** <sup>15</sup> **Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.** <sup>16</sup> **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**