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## God's Works of Love

Here is a good question to ask. How big is God? It doesn't matter if they are saved or if they have never been in church. Most people are going to answer you by saying that He is big. He is really, really, really BIG. "God is so big that He holds the universe in His hand" or, "God is so big that the moon is actually His night light". Ask that question and you may get some silly answers, but you will find out that most people agree that God is pretty big. However, this is where many people's revelation on God stops. The next question is, "If God is so big then why does He allow people to starve in Ethiopia?" or, "Why would such a big God let anyone die and go to hell?" or how about, "God is so big that if He wanted to heal me He would. God is so big that He can do whatever He wants, whenever He wants."

This simple question has spawned much debate and confusion when it comes to understanding God and how He works with us. Why doesn't He heal everyone? Why doesn't He stop war and famine? Why does He allow me to go through pain and hurt? If God is as big as we all believe He is, then WHY? First we must understand that God is Love (1 John 4:8). Now, once again, everyone knows that God is love, but do they know what that means? In the Greek it means "agape" or unconditional love; it also means affection, "to have a love feast". God wants to have a love feast with you. God doesn't just love you; He is love. It is impossible for God not to love anyone, no matter what they have done.

When I was teaching up and coming preachers I would give them a simple way to judge doctrine. I call it the momma test. The closest love on this earth that we can compare God's love for you, is the true love of a good momma. I have often said that I have learned more about God's love from watching my momma than from any preacher. Being raised in Northern British Columbia, I learned at a young age about the wilderness. Sometimes out in the woods and you can spot a cute little furry bear cub and he's looking at you with the biggest, softest brown eyes that you have ever seen. Just when you want to go and cuddle with that little teddy bear, you need to stop yourself and RUN! Run as fast as you can and don't look back. It's not the cub you need to be afraid of; it's the momma bear that has to be close. A momma bear would sacrifice her life for her cubs.

Next time someone tells you that God put sickness on someone or left the sickness there for some reason, go ask your momma (most mommas are good) if she would put sickness on you for any reason. After she washed your mouth out with soap, she would tell you that not only would she never put anything harmful in your life, but she would sell all she had and do everything in her power just to keep you safe. She would even tell you that if she could, she would take that sickness in place of you and that's exactly what Jesus did for us.

In the same way, God did everything He could to provide for us. Scripture tells us that at the cross, Jesus provided a way for healing. 1 Peter 2:23, "*who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — **by whose stripes you were healed.***" Jesus took away sin that separated us from our Heavenly Father. John 1:29, "*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God **who takes away the sin of the world!**'*" 2 Corinthians 8:9, "*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though **He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.***" Christ gave up heaven to come and take your place at the cross, providing us a clear path to all that God has for us.

I found myself sick one time. I was very sick and very concerned, so I went into confession mode. I started to call Jesus my healer. I thanked Him that sickness had no part in me. I rebuked disease and commanded it in the name of Jesus to “Come out of me!!” But then I ask God, “How can I be sick? I’ve given my life up for you and left my family and my country for you.” Right then the Lord spoke to my heart and said, “If you want to stand on your own righteousness then go right ahead.”

You see, Jesus had already purchased my healing two thousand years ago. What was I going to do to earn it now? My stance had to be “God, I thank you that I am healed because of what you have done not because of what I have done.” I needed to believe that the work was finished. Through confession I wasn’t trying to talk God into healing me, I was trying to change my belief structure that He had already paid the price and that He wanted me healed more than I wanted to be healed. Talk about love.

Don’t get me wrong; it takes longer for some people to receive their revelation of healing, but it isn’t because of God. Some might say, “God will heal you, but in His timing.” His timing was at the cross. There are many reasons why people can’t receive His blessings, but God acting out of His character is not one of them. The shed blood of Christ was the price that paid in full every promise of God towards us. Jesus didn’t come to fight with the devil. It wasn’t a wrestling match where the Son of God put the devil in a headlock and took back the keys of the kingdom. Jesus came to sacrifice his life in place of yours. We were in debt and Jesus took our debt and paid for it with His precious blood. Mathew 5:17-18 says, “*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill.***” Jesus came to fulfill the requirements of the law. Every requirement for your healing has already been paid for at the cross. Every requirement for your freedom and prosperity has already been paid for. The price was the most expensive in the history of all time - the sacrifice of an innocent Man for those who did not love Him. Always remember that God’s motive for you is always love. Not just love for mankind or love for His work on this earth. In every situation that God is able to be a part of, He is only able to operate through LOVE. If it is hurtful, painful or destructive then God had no way of starting what took place, just ask your mom.

Finally, God works through the authority that you give Him. God is big, but according to Jesus, it’s not how big God is that matters on this earth but how big God is on the inside of YOU. Luke 17:21, “*nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.*” Everything God can bring into this world has to come through His people. That means revival, healing, prosperity, and salvation. It is through our authority and how big we allow God to be on the inside of us. There is but one requirement for His promises to be manifest in our lives and that is simply for us to believe. Please look past your failings and weaknesses and look to all that Jesus has already given to you.

I know the battles of this walk. The devil is not afraid of organized religion or even great numbers of Christians doing a work. What the devil is terrified of is not many people, but one person, you, a person who will pay the price to make God big on the inside. He believes in you. He believes that you can overcome every battle the enemy is throwing at you. He loves you!

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