***Life That Manifest the Fragrance of God (Jn.15:12)***

**I ALSO HAVE LOVED YOU (15:9):**

LOVE GROWS IN US AS WE SEE HOW JESUS SEES AND LOVES US AND HOW HE DEMONSTRATES HIS KINDNESS TOWARDS US, ESPECIALLY IN OUR SIN AND FAILURE (EPH. 2:6-7).

HIS LOVE FOR US IS THE BASIS BY WHICH WE SEE AND LOVE OURSELVES THROUGH THE LENS OF HIS GRACE (MT. 22:39).

Jesus says, “I also have loved you,” verse 9. Love grows in us not only as we see the image of God in other people, but love grows in us as we see His love towards us. Jesus’ love for you is the basis of you seeing and loving yourself in the love of God. The analogy I have used many times over the years is the woman who prayed, “Lord, I want to love my neighbor as myself,” and the Lord said, “That is the problem! You hate yourself, and that is why you hate your neighbor.”

It is true. You cannot love except from the overflow of receiving that love and loving what God sees in you because you do not have any bandwidth for other people if you hate yourself. It is not a “kind of nice” thing. It is an essential thing that we see how He loves us and that we see ourselves through the lens of His investment into our life. We do not have the right to cast ourselves off, for the Lord says, “Wait a second! You are Mine! I have invested in you and I have a plan for you. You do not have the right to just disregard all of that because I am your Lord and I am your Savior. You have to agree with what I say about you and the investments that I have made in you.” Jesus says, “If you abide in love and see that I actually love you, it will awaken your heart to see yourself differently. You will have an overflow of love in you to give to someone else because you will have joy.” (15:11)

**MY JOY WILL REMAIN (15:11):**

GOD’S JOY IN US INCLUDES:

THE PLEASURE OF INTERACTING WITH JESUS (PS. 16:8; JN. 3:29; 16:14)

AND A DEEP SENSE OF WELL-BEING AND CONFIDENCE IN HIS LEADERSHIP (ROM. 8:28).

HIS JOY IN US ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF SUFFERING DECLARES THAT THE REALITY OF RELATING TO JESUS BRINGS US AN “ALL SATISFYING JOY”—THIS DISPLAYS THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF JESUS AND MAKES OTHERS WANT THIS JOY.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU (15:12):

HERE, JESUS TELLS US HOW FAR HE IS WILLING TO GO IN EMPOWERING US TO LOVE PEOPLE IN THE WAY THAT HE DOES.

GOD’S COMMANDS TO US INCLUDE HIS PROMISE OF ENABLING US TO OBEY THEM.

LOVE GROWS IN US AS WE SEE THE IMAGE OF GOD IN OTHER PEOPLE AND AS WE SEE HIS LOVE TOWARDS US.

HIS JOY IN US SUSTAINS US THROUGH THE SACRIFICES THAT CONSISTENT LOVE REQUIRES—IT EMPOWERS US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW HE SEES OTHERS (EVEN OUR ENEMIES).

WE ARE FILLED WITH GRATITUDE THAT GOD LOVES US IN A WAY THAT WE DID NOT DESERVE.

THIS EMPOWERS US TO LOVE OTHERS.

How powerful is this command… together loving each other and in love with one another as it empowers us all to work in unison with unity in the Spirit where there are no boundaries and full of freedom to glorify God in Jesus Christ!