***Burning Hearts, The Antidote to Cold Love***

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.’”  
Matthew 22:37-38

The command to love God with all our heart does not begin with us. It is one expression of the ultimate reality of the kingdom that existed long before the creation of the world, namely, God’s heart burning with perfect love within the fellowship of the three persons of the Trinity.

The essence of how God thinks and feels is summed up in wholehearted love. The Lord has great power and wisdom, which He uses solely to express His love.

We understand the first commandment best by seeing it in its eternal context of the fellowship in the Godhead, rather than seeing it as one aspect of kingdom ethics. God wants us to respond in wholehearted love because it is who He is and who He created us to be. We were created in His image for wholehearted love. It is the essence of salvation and our relationship with God.

One foundational premise in Scripture is that God loves us with the same intensity that God loves God. We must abide in and stay focused on this truth (John 15:9; 17:23).

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”   
John 15:9

The love burning in God’s heart has at least five distinct and deeply interrelated expressions.

1. God’s love for God: Each person in the Trinity intensely loves the others with all His heart.
2. God’s love for His people: He loves His people with all of His heart, mind, and strength. He loves the redeemed with the same intensity that He loves within the fellowship of the Trinity.
3. Our love for God: The Spirit imparts God’s very own love to His people (Romans 5:5).
4. Our love for ourselves: We love ourselves in God’s love and for God’s sake.
5. Our love for others: We love others in the overflow of experiencing God’s love (1 John 4:19).

These five expressions of love constitute what I refer to as the fellowship of the burning heart. Our greatest destiny is to participate in the burning love in the family dynamics of the Trinity.

Abide in love: To “abide in love” means to continually live in it and reflect on it. This requires that we stay focused on living in God’s love in its various expressions. We are to set our heart to go deep in our understanding of this.

Our primary life goal is to be focused on receiving and expressing God’s love. We are to make this the primary preoccupation of our life before, during, and after revival. We do not need to wait for a special season of revival to engage deeply in the love of God.

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”   
John 15:9

When tough times come,  
When disappoints hurts,  
When failure comes,  
When sin happens,  
When loss is staggering,   
When nothing works…

Confidence in the never-failing love of God is the only stronghold we can hide in, the only place where an embrace of His presence heals all, makes whole, and makes all things beautiful!

A burning heart is not burning because all is well. A burning heart is aflame because nothing seems to work, but one thing always prevails: I can, you can, ”behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us that we be called sons of God” (1 John 3:1).