

May 4, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

1 John 4:12-13 *No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of His Spirit.* (NIV)

We know from scripture that God is love. We also know this when we experience salvation. He pours His love into our hearts by His Holy Spirit. Many people have experienced a possession of an evil spirit and were controlled by that evil spirit, but we who are in Christ are now possessed by the One Who gave His very life for us. He has come to live inside of us and to dwell or abide there. He has made our hearts His home. *If we love one another* is the best evidence of God's work and presence in our lives. It is the outward expression of the One Who dwells in us. He wants to show others how much He loves them as well, and He chooses to use us as His instruments of love to others. *His love is made complete in us* literally means that we are made mature and whole in His love. God's love in us will be the defining mark that we are His. They will know we are His by the love we have and show to others.

This is the holy and perfect love of God. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in us. It is the testimony of His Spirit because that is Who God is; God is love. Just as a rancher can use a branding iron to mark the cattle that are his, we are marked by the love that we are to have for one another. You have heard the old adage by Teddy Roosevelt: *Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care.* People are not looking to us to see if we are perfect, because we are far from that. Instead, they are looking to see Jesus in us. How do they see that you might ask? They see it by our love. They feel it in the way we care for others. The love of God is the most powerful thing in all of creation, and He has given His love to us.

Dear LORD, let us be the examples of Your love to this world we live in. Fill us to overflowing with Your great and unconditional love. Help us to reach out to those that we come in contact with. Let them see Your Spirit alive in us and overflowing with Your love. In Jesus Name, Amen