

October 21, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Seven Letters of Love: Part 4

To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am He who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, "I will not impose any other burden on you, except to hold on to what you have until I come." To the one who is victorious and does My will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—that one "will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery"—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give that one the morning star. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.—Revelation 2:18–29 (NIV)

Letter 4—To the Church in Thyatira

Jesus begins this letter to the church by introducing Himself as the Son of God whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. This is a statement of His authority: **All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. (Matthew 28:18b NIV)** We need to remember that all power and authority are in His hands! Jesus commends this church for its love. This selfless, self-giving love is called agape. This kind of love can only come from our relationship with Christ, and it is generated in us by the Holy Spirit. He also commends them for their faith. This type of faith comes with perseverance and overcomes obstacles. It is the highest form of loyalty. Jesus deserves the same type of loyalty from us that He gives to us: **Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5b NIV)**

Jesus commends them for their service. Their salvation spurred them on to do the works of Christ. They didn't just hold on to their pie in the sky; instead, they continued to do what Christ commanded them to do. He told them to share the Gospel: **For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)**

He commends them for their perseverance. The picture here is not one of "perfect" people; instead, it's about forgiven people who continue to move forward instead of sliding back. They want to continue to grow in their faith. We cannot become comfortable in our walks because as soon as we do, we start sliding back into the old ways and the old habits of sin. We must continue to press on. **Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it, but one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on**

toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 3:13–14) Jesus is telling us all to love like He loves, be faithful and consistent, serve Him with sincere hearts, and persevere to the end.

Dear Father, help me love like You love, be faithful and consistent in all I do, serve You with all sincerity from my heart, and never give up. I love You, Lord. In Jesus's name, Amen.