*Monday, June 24, 2013*

**Motives**

Romans 5:5-8 And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (KJV)

God sent His message of love through His Son, and only those that respond in love will understand how His plan of salvation really works. How about responding in love even when it is not convenient for us? You will find that some situations and some people are not as easy to love as others, but that is no excuse for not letting the love of God flow through you. In fact the word shed in verse 5 means to gush out of. So in order to keep living waters gushing out of you like a fire hydrant, you will need to practice what I will refer to as a bit of inconvenient love at times.

Matthew 5:43-45 Ye have heard that it hath been said; Thou shall love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (KJV)

Remember the scripture that talks about the last being first and first last? Sometimes the last thing you want to do is love someone that has not been so loving to you, but the first response our Lord is asking of you is to continue to reach out and respond in a loving way, just like our Lord did with us when we were still sinners. Another way of looking at it is being instant in season and out of season; season referring to a person or situation you may not think is deserving of much love.

Romans 12:17-21 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shall heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. (KJV)

They that are truly Christ’s are the ones that overcome evil and are not taken down by the things of this life. If you desire to grow and mature in the realm of the Spirit then you will have to crucify some of your affections and lusts of the flesh in order to keep the love of God flowing through you, and no one said it was going to be easy.

Matthew 7:12-14 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do you even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. 13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (KJV)

When reading verse 12 we see that we need to do unto others what we would like seen done to us. It doesn’t say we do to others what they have done to us does it?

God bless dearly loved, and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.