

Holy Spirit-enhanced love in a marriage

2 September 2021

It is when one goes through severe difficulties that one's marriage relationship is tested. It either falls apart or grows closer together. If the foundation of the marriage is selfishness and pride, then it will fall apart. But, if the foundation is based upon humility and a servant heart, then difficulties just draw couples to a beautiful depth of love which is unmatched and beyond human capabilities.

In the last two years I have been through first a stroke, and then developing from that, a series of epileptic seizures, operations, and bouts of extreme weakness. Mandy has had to handle this, initially from a remote farm in the middle of the night where a farmer had to be called at 3 a.m. to come and help get me to hospital. Mandy has carried the brunt of the seizures as I was usually unaware of what was happening to me, only waking up many hours later from a state of unconsciousness. That has been exceptionally hard for her. To assist her, we decided to move to a little town where she could have neighbours to assist, and they have been there for us on several occasions.

However, I don't want to talk about the difficulties and sickness (which have many wonderful testimonies of their own). I rather want to focus on our marriage relationship and the resultant deepening of our love for each other.

Two nights ago, I developed a chest infection which sent me into a spasm of coughing and heaving for breath. For Mandy that was again quite traumatic as she has often had to cope with epileptic seizures in the night. Now it was a serious chest infection. It kept both of us awake for several hours. The next day (yesterday) we went to Orania's excellent clinic and they treated me in their usual caring professionalism. So last night I slept much better, only having one short coughing spasm which faded quickly. I was lying awake while listening to Mandy next to me. She had fallen asleep again and was breathing heavily. I gently slipped my hand into hers and quietly whispered so as not to wake her up, "I love you so much, I love you so much, I love you so very, very much."

As I have often experienced in the night during times of difficulty, the very HOLY presence of the Holy Spirit came over me again. He started to give me revelation on a depth of marriage relationship that very few ever know. I was weeping silently, holding Mandy's hand tightly, as Scripture after Scripture flowed out of my heart. It was the most beautiful revelation. Here are some of the truths which He revealed to me ...

Rom 5:1 "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

*5:2 "through whom also we have obtained our **introduction by faith** into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

5:3 "And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

5:4 "and perseverance, **proven character**; and proven character, hope;

5:5 "and **hope does not disappoint**, because the LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN Poured OUT WITHIN OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT who was given to us."

What struck me in this passage was not so much the positive effect which tribulation can produce – as I have often written about (see my book [Embrace the wilderness](#)). What moved me to tears was that the Holy Spirit is the One who POURS OUT the LOVE into our hearts. Whenever we read of the acts Holy Spirit, we always find a supernatural power involved that cannot be accomplished by any human endeavour. When the Holy Spirit brooded over the dark, formless void of the chaos of the earth, God spoke, "*Let there be light, and there was light.*" Out of nothing, the Holy Spirit brought forth light and life.

Paul quotes this passage in Genesis and expounds on it:

2Cor 4:6 "For God, who said, '**Light shall shine out of darkness,**' is the One who has **shone in our hearts to give the Light** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

Note that He **shines into our hearts!**

2Cor 4:7 "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the **surpassing greatness of the power** will be **of God** and not from ourselves;"

The Holy Spirit is that treasure in our very ordinary humanity "*earthen vessels*", and with Him comes again this "*surpassing greatness of power*". It is a power far beyond our own endeavours.

*2Cor 4:8 "we are **afflicted** in every way, but not crushed; **perplexed**, but not despairing;*

*4:9 "**persecuted**, but not forsaken; **struck down**, but not destroyed;"*

Note again the wilderness of affliction, perplexing, persecution, striking down. In that wilderness of difficulties comes this **outpouring of love and light** which always is beyond human ability or comprehension.

Now when we go back to our key Scripture which tells us that the Holy Spirit **pours His love into our hearts**, we see that it is often accompanied by the wilderness of affliction. And in that wilderness that might seem as dark and void as the world was, comes this supernatural – superhuman - love which cannot be generated by human endeavour; and far surpasses the deepest form of erotic love even of two young people falling madly in love with each other. This love which the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts, especially in a maturing marriage relationship, is so deep and powerful that not the wildest of wilderness experiences can break it apart.

As this revelation came over me, I sensed something which I had often sensed before, when we had gone through deep trials: a supernatural love for Mandy that is just so very, very beautiful.

Though I had not yet received this particular Biblical understanding previously, I realised, upon reflection, that I have nevertheless already practically experienced this supernatural outpouring of Holy Spirit's love of which the Bible teaches. This has happened to me on many occasions.

The first time I sensed this supernatural love for Mandy which far exceeded anything I had ever experienced before, and certainly beyond any personal endeavour of morality in my own strength, was when Mandy and I had to flee from Zimbabwe (See my book [*Another farm in Africa*](#)). I had seen Mandy's terror when I was imprisoned on politically-instigated trumped-up charges which carried with it a life sentence. I had also been with Mandy a few days later when a concerned black man and his wife came in the night to kindly warn us to flee the country lest I be imprisoned for life at the pending court verdict the next morning. I held Mandy's hand as our plane took off from Harare airport and we left for the unknown. We had no idea what the future held. All we had was a suitcase of clothes each. As we watched Zimbabwe falling away far below, I held Mandy's hand tightly, looked in her eyes lovingly and said to her, "We've got each other." At that moment I again experienced this supernatural depth of love for Mandy, poured into my heart by the Holy Spirit.

Another time when I experienced this supernatural love was just a few weeks later. Mandy was so traumatised through the ordeal that we had been through, that she was like an old lady, bent over and shivering continuously. She could no longer walk by herself, and her weak little voice, when she spoke, was pitiful to hear.

We were being cared for by a loving couple in Pretoria. That evening as Mandy and I bathed together, she looked at me with pitiful eyes, almost pleading, and asked me, "What is tomorrow going to hold for us? What is our future?"

That same powerful love from the Holy Spirit came over me for Mandy, and with it a faith that was far beyond anything that I could manufacture, and certainly exceeding any scientific explanation by far.

I replied very simply, "We have a good plate of food to eat tonight, and we have a lovely warm bed to sleep in. Tomorrow is in the Lord's hands. We are not going to sit in a heap of self-pity. Rather we will go out and minister to other people who have been traumatised, and we will care for hurting people. We will never ask any person for payment for our ministry. Rather we will trust the Lord to supply our needs."

Those words were not of my doing or intellect. It was a powerful outpouring of love by the Holy Spirit that brought with it a faith far above any human ability or explanation.

Well, now it is eight and a half years later. We have kept our resolve. God has supernaturally opened massive doors of ministry for us not only in South Africa, but also in several other parts of the world. He has supernaturally supplied all our needs – a place to stay and a brand-new vehicle with which we have visited and ministered to many thousands of farmers throughout most of South Africa. Though we have never asked for payment for ministry, even when we were specifically asked what our charges were, God has been faithful. Very often the

supply of our needs comes from widows and pensioners or farmers going through a devastating drought – people who know how to hear and be obedient to the voice of the Holy Spirit despite their own circumstances. We have often been surprised at who God has used in this regard, and we can add many such testimonies of God's goodness.

But coming back to the supernatural outpouring of love which the Holy Spirit has given me for my precious wife, I realise that though this is freely available for anyone, it is not a cheap gift. Mandy and I have been called to be a light of hope for marriages and for people going through deep wilderness times in their lives and especially marriage. The testimony of the deep love we have for each other gives hope to those whose lives and marriages are falling apart.

I have learned that our marriages must be built upon a solid foundation. If it is built upon a foundation of selfishness and pride, it will not stand the wilderness test and will most certainly fall apart. But if our marriage is built upon the foundation of faith, self-sacrifice, and humility with gentleness, this invites the Holy Spirit to add to our marriage a precious gem by pouring out His supernatural love into our marriage. This outpouring will bind us together through a love incomprehensible to the human mind, even when faced with the deepest of trials. The Amplified Bible adds another precious gem to our understanding of marriage through trial:

Prov 11:2 "When swelling and pride come, then emptiness and shame come also, but with the humble (those who are lowly, who have been pruned or

chiseled by trial, and renounce self) are skilful and godly wisdom and soundness."

Human endeavour with a good morality is no match for the supernatural love which the Holy Spirit gives. Neither can this love be bought or explained scientifically, nor ordered by a court of law. It is absolutely supernatural in every way and can only be received by faith.

Seek this outpouring of the Holy Spirit with your whole being. But do not be surprised if it is accompanied by difficult trials. See the trials as precious jewels to build proven character into your lives, and with it a confident hope for the future and a happy marriage.

(For further study and understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, see my series of books on the subject, Receive the Holy Spirit: [Book 1 - Gateway to the Kingdom](#), [Book 2 - The Purpose of the Holy Spirit](#), [Book 3 - Baptism: Water, Spirit, Fire](#))

Written with a deep love from the Holy Spirit to hurting and broken people. May God bring healing to many marriages who are busy falling apart at the seams. THERE IS HOPE.