

## HOLY SPIRIT: LOVE

“And now abide...love...” (I Corinthians 13:3).

There are three common Greek words for love. “Eros” refers to erotic, having to do with the gratification of sexual needs. “Phileo” means affection and is the expression of emotional feelings. “Agapao” is a spiritual characteristic and expresses the essential nature of God (I John 4:8). “Agapao” is the greatest quality of the spirit. Love can only be known by actions prompted in the spirit. It is not caused by emotions, but it impacts emotions. Love is the exercise of Christ’s will in the deliberate choices we make. Love is intentional. It is the fruit of the Spirit working through our spirit. Love for God and man takes place in our spirit in response to the Holy Spirit. Without spirit we would have no capacity for love. The Holy Spirit through the revelation of God has used “agapao” to express ideas previously unknown. A study of Greek literature sheds little light upon the meaning of this kind of love in the New Testament. “Agapao” describes the attitude of God toward His Son, to the human race, and to believers. This kind of love expresses the essential nature of God, which is “spirit” (John 4:24). “Agapao” is known only from the actions it prompts through the spirit. Love from us is the exercise of the Divine will through our spirit. It expresses the nature of God in us. W.E. Vine states, “Christian love...is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations... Love seeks the welfare of all (Rom. 15:2) and works no ill to any, (13:8-10).” John says, “He who does not love does not know God...” (I John 8). In other words a person who does not love has a dead spirit and is not alive toward God. He has never been born again. Love is the work of the Holy Spirit in the human spirit to reveal who God is and what He is like. “Agapao” is God abiding in union with our spirit. We are to abide in communion with the Holy Spirit. In other words, we are to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).