
VCL International
VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING CONFERENCE

LOVE

Lesson Transcript by David Ritzenthaler

Love. Big subject. Everybody's talking about it. But what is it that most people are talking about? We hear consistently about falling in love. But if you understand what love is, you know you can't "fall" into it. Love is a decision of the will. In fact, **love is considering what's important for someone else and doing what is in that person's best interest without expecting anything in return.** One of the best examples of that was Mother Theresa. She lived her life without expecting anything in return for giving her life for the many that were in need.

Turn with me to the lesson on love. There is a cute little quote on the introduction page. Someone wittily expressed feelings I have. "To live above with saints I love, that surely will be glory! But to live below with saints I know—well, that's a different story!!" One of the things we see consistently in ministry to people is a lack of love. People really don't know how to love.

One of the things I want to point out before we begin this session is that this lesson is not like any of the other lessons in the VCL. All the other lessons were about causes that bring about effects. This lesson is about the effect. This is the result. This is what happens when you learn issues with regard to godship or you learn issues with regard to identity or you learn issues with regard to problems and their purpose. All the other things we teach about in the VCL Conference cause things to happen. This lesson is different. We're not telling you in this lesson that you need to love. Remember, love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, the effect of being connected to the vine of Jesus Christ. And it's produced

by the Father doing things in our life to produce love. So, when we talk together in the next few minutes, I don't want you to think that we are saying that you need to love. No. Love is an effect. It is the result of the life of Christ being your living experience.

LOVE (Diagram 220-A)

Turn with me to your outline. Roman numeral one is "The Pinnacle of Love." I would like you to get your Bibles out, because I want us to see some things about love in the Scriptures. First of all, I want us to see that love is God's goal in the life of a believer. Secondly, I want us to see that love is actually the end result of a work that God does in the life of a believer. This is not something that we do. It's something that happens when we do certain things. In other words, love is the result, and it is God's goal. It is what God wants to see happen in the life of a believer. It is, in fact, among believers, the end result of what happens when believers minister to each other. They build each other up in love.

Look with me, if you would, at Matthew 22:36-40. You remember this little discourse where they were talking to Jesus and someone said, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" In verse thirty-seven: "And He [Jesus] said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it. 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and Prophets." I emphasize that, because, the New Testament starts right here, and back

here is the Law and Prophets. [Illustrated by holding up the Bible showing the size of the different portions.] It says that the Law and Prophets—all that stuff back there—depends on these two commandments.

You will notice one of those commandments is a vertical commandment. It's loving God. It's a vertical issue. The other one, you will notice, is a horizontal commandment. It is a horizontal issue dealing with loving other human beings, other people. So, you'll see there is a twofold dimension: vertically loving God and horizontally loving our neighbor or other people. The result of loving God and loving others comes from the many things that we teach in the VCL. So, if you haven't had a chance to listen to all the other lessons, I would encourage you to do that because this lesson is the result. This is what should happen in your life. A life of love should be your life experience, if you understand how to let Christ live His life through you.

Notice Romans 13:8 says, "Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law." In other words, all these books on the law are accomplished simply by loving our neighbor. [Show size of first five books of the Bible.] We don't have to learn all those books. All we have to do is let the Christ of heaven live in us so that we love our neighbor; and then, we fulfill the Law. Also, Galatians 5:14 says, "For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" That's the horizontal dimension. So, we read here that God's whole goal, in all that He wrote in the Law, was that we would love our neighbor.

Also, in 1 John 4:7-13, again notice, it says that love is the very essence of who God really is. Listen as I read verses 7-11. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know

God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." So we see a vertical picture of God loving us, causing us to love Him, and causing us to love other people. It is a result of a work God does in our lives. "B" in the outline also says that it is the end result. In other words, it is not only God's goal, it is the final thing that God accomplishes in the believer.

Turn with me to Ephesians the fourth Chapter. This is a fairly long section, but I want us to read it so we can see that love is actually the end result of the life in the community of believers. You are probably already familiar with some of the verses. We're going to start with verse eleven: "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers." All these people, the Word of God says were given, "for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

Let me ask you a question. If God's goal in the measure of fullness is that we would measure up to the fullness which belongs to Jesus Christ, how complete, how perfect, how full is the measure? That's a fairly mature measure. Notice in Ephesians 4:14-16 how He says this happens: "As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness and deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper

working of every individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” In other words, each one is contributing his or her part. So, we are all functioning effectively together, properly, the way God designed. That’s how the body of Christ is grown.

God’s goal and end result in the life of believers and in the body of Christ is a life of love. Well, why is that? What’s the purpose of all that? We will see that the reason God wants to grow us up is so the whole world can see that we’re His children. In fact, the real evidence of the completing work of Christ’s life, which is love horizontally to others, is what demonstrates that we are actually His children. Notice with me also in Colossians 3:14 what it says love is. “And beyond all these things” [he’s just described various characteristics of the Christian life] “put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.” It’s the end result of perfection—a life of love in a believer.

In 1 Timothy 1:5, we see that same thing. Paul in teaching Timothy says, “But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” The goal—of the teaching, the end work, the end objective of all that God is doing in the life of believers and in the body of Christ—is love. You say: “Well, how do I love? How do I make that happen?” I am truly convinced by my own personal experience and by that of hundreds of others whom I have had an opportunity to watch, that love is not something that you and I can produce. It’s not something that we can make happen in our lives. It is truly a work of Christ—Him dwelling in us and His life flowing through us. Love is an effect. It’s a result.

Martin Luther said, “I would rather obey than work miracles.” And you say, “OK, well, so what?” Well, look at this next section, Roman numeral two, “Love’s Twofold Dimension.” I want you to see something. First of all, let’s look at the vertical aspect of what God calls

loving Him and how He describes it. He actually uses other words that are absolutely synonymous with the word love. These words will fit into the four boxes. Let’s read some of those together. In John 14:23-24, Jesus says: “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.”

When you think about the idea of loving God, what other word do you see here that could be used to mean the same as loving God? It would be to **obey** Him. The word is “keep” in this particular section, but God says that to love Him is to obey Him. That is why Martin Luther said he’d rather obey than work miracles. Look at John 15:9-11, 14, starting at verse nine: “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep [or obey] My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments, and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.” Verse fourteen says, “You are My friends, if you do what I command you.” Let me ask you a question. How many of you as believers in Christ Jesus would like to enjoy being completely at home with God? How many of you would like God to make Himself at home with you? Did you notice what it says the conditions are? God will make Himself at home with us, and we will have the privilege of being at home with Him, if you and I obey vertically. To love God is to obey Him.

George McDonald says, “I find the obeying of the will of God leaves me no time for disputing about His plans.” There are many who, instead of obeying and doing what God says, spend their time arguing in their minds about what God wants. I know. I have been there myself. I remember a situation not too long ago when the Lord was speaking to me. It regarded giving



a Suburban I had to a couple with four kids. They had come into the center and I saw their need. Their boys were good-sized and they had a little two-door, hatchback Toyota that barely held them all. In fact, when they all got in, they were packed so tightly that they could hardly breathe. That's how it looked. At the time, I was driving a nice nine-passenger Suburban. I was the only one that rode in it every day. So the Lord spoke His Spirit to my heart and said, "You should give them the Suburban." I did the normal process so many of us do. I argued with the Lord over issues: I didn't have any money to buy another one. I did remind Him, it was painted to match my boat. I went through various discussions with Him. In fact, I put it off. I didn't really like the idea very well. About a week later they came into the center, and, wouldn't you know it, that is when I came into the lobby to get my mail. The Lord said again: "Well David, I want to remind you that I have asked you to give them the Suburban. They need it. You don't need it."

So, I went through the mental gyrations again trying to explain to the Lord the various reasons why that wasn't a very reasonable consideration. Forgetting, of course, that the Lord owns all the Suburbans. Though the name on the title may be mine, it was only a matter of stewardship. He could take me out tomorrow and I wouldn't own the Suburban.

About a month later I was going to work a different way than I would normally go when I came to a four-way stop. I stopped, and I noticed the car on the other side. I waved for them to go on through. As they got into the intersection, I noticed these people were trying to wave at me. It was difficult because it was the people with their four boys in their little two-door, hatchback Toyota. They were having trouble waving because there wasn't much room. I was sitting in my nice, big Suburban, with my stereo blaring. I was enjoying this nine-passenger vehicle, but the Lord convicted

my heart. I couldn't wait for the day to be finished, so I could take the car over to their place and give it to them. I figured I would trade them for the little two-door. So, I'd just drop mine off, and I'd pick up their Toyota.

I got there and presented the fact that the Lord had spoken to me telling me I should give this Suburban to them. They looked at me a little puzzled, then took the title I had in my hand. I said, "I'll just drive yours home then," and they said, "No, we need our other car." There I stood, trying to figure out what God had forgotten in this whole deal. I asked them if they might just be willing to take me home. They were more than glad to do that. They agreed to drive me home in the Suburban.

They dropped me off, and I began to ask the Lord, "Well, what do you have in mind here?" About a day later a guy called me up and said: "Hey, I have an old, old Chevy station wagon. It is about to die. The engine is about shot in it, but I'd like to give it to you. I know you need a car." I said: "Now wait a minute, Lord! This is not a very fair deal here." When the man brought it over, he explained the situation to me. He said: "I want you to understand, I do have another motor for it and I'll change it out when it is necessary. But I'll tell you what, because of the condition it is in, if it needs to be repaired I want you to take it to the shop where I have my other cars and trucks repaired. It won't cost you anything. You just take it there and have it repaired."

I thought, "Well Lord, okay. Now you're getting started here and this is good." As we stood there talking he said: "Well, I'll tell you what. I'll pay for the gas and the oil for it for this next year, too, so it really doesn't cost you anything to drive it." And I thought, "Lord, now you're really getting down to business here." The Lord is amazing and He is gracious. I did enjoy, for over a year, driving that car all over the place. One day I went out the front

entrance of the office, and it decided it wasn't going to go anymore. Do you know what the Lord wanted to do? The Lord wanted to give me a new Suburban. That was why He wanted that one to quit. It was just a couple days later a guy called me up and said, "Hey, I understand you're driving an old wagon and you need a car. I know you like Suburbans. Go out and look for what you want, then I'll go and buy it for you." So, I enjoyed that one for years. Just recently, another man came along and said, "I think you need a new Suburban." He bought me a new Suburban. I now drive a brand new one. The Lord is amazing.

There is a key thing He wants to get through to us, so we can enjoy His supernatural provision. If I hadn't obeyed and given the first Suburban away, I never would have enjoyed all the Suburbans since or His supernatural provision. I would have been caught up in trying to provide them for myself. The Lord wants us to obey. The key way that God says He experiences us loving Him is by obeying Him. Notice some of these in John 15:9-10: "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love." Read verses 12 and 14: "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. You are my friends, if you do what I command you." Would you like to be a friend? Would you like to be in this situation? "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" (John 14:23 NKJV). Would you like to experience the Lord's presence, of Him being at home with you? It comes through practical, actual steps of obedience when He speaks to your heart. When His word tells you to do things, you do what He says, you don't—as George McDonald says—dispute about His plans.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE OBEDIENCE CYCLE (Diagram 220-B)

Only in those moments when we find ourselves in an impossible situation and choose to obey what God told us to do, do we begin to experience the supernatural working of His life. We experience the incredible enjoyment of His presence because we become friends. In 1 John 3, I'd like to illustrate Diagram 220-B. This diagram is designed to take chapter three of 1 John and simply lay it out for you to see what it says. Turn to 1 John 3:21-22 and let's look at what the Word says with regard to how to experience the presence of God, and how to actually enjoy the results of obedience. This particular Scripture is designed to help us see that. Starting at verse twenty-one: "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him." This next word "because" is key. Because what? What is "the cause" that causes your heart not to condemn you, for you to have confidence or faith, and therefore ask and receive? What is it? "Because we keep [obey] His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight." Experientially what begins to happen? If you look at your diagram, there is a little triangle under the word obey—because we obey or keep His commandments, that's point number one. It causes the effect that brings the rest of the results. So, when we obey God, what happens? In obeying, we actually, experientially have no sense of condemnation. We begin to experientially know God as our personal experience. Because we have no sense of condemnation, it gives us experientially the faith or the confidence to believe that if we ask we will receive. That is exactly what you see is the next issue.

Well, what do you think asking and receiving from God would cause us to want to do? Obey more, so that we would have less condemnation. Now I understand that when you were born again spiritually you were made completely perfect in spirit—God has already accomplished

that. If you listen to other lessons, you'll realize God is in the process of sanctifying in your soul—mind, will, and emotions—what's already accomplished in perfection in your spirit. He's in the process of doing this. I'm not talking about being perfect spiritually in position. I'm talking about practice, by your experience, of what is true in position. You're already in a place of no condemnation. God's already forgiven all your sins. Everything is cleansed, but experiencing that positional reality comes through obeying. Vertically, to love God is to obey God.

One last thing: If you turn to 1 John 5 and read the first three verses of that chapter it says: "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome [grievous]." Obeying God's commandments, loving God, is not grievous. It's not a burden; it's not difficult; it's not a hard thing. It's a wonderful thing, because when we do, we begin to experience the manifestation of His presence. We begin to enjoy being at home with Him, and He begins being at home with us. We experience what it is to be His friend.

This effect of living the Christ-life rule doesn't only produce a life of obedience to Christ. Oswald Chambers says of obedience: "The golden rule for spiritual understanding is not in love, but obedience. If a man wants scientific knowledge, intellectual curiosity is his guide; but if he wants insight into Jesus he can only get it by obedience. If things are dark to us then we may be sure there is something we will not do. Intellectual darkness comes through ignorance. Spiritual darkness comes because of something we do not intend to obey. All God's revelations are sealed until they are open to us by obedience. We will never get them open by philoso-

phy or thinking. Immediately when we obey, the light comes on, the promises of God are of no value to us until by obedience we understand the nature of God. We read something in the Bible three hundred and sixty-five times and it means nothing to us. Then all of a sudden, we see what God means because in some particular way we've obeyed God, and instantly His life and His word is opened up to us."

Obedience is a wonderful thing. Because obedience is what causes us to actually, experientially, experience God. Yet this whole issue of loving God or obeying God can only be accomplished when we let the Holy Spirit of God, when we let the Christ of heaven through all of His super natural power, live in and through us. By abiding in Him, by walking after His Spirit, by resting in His presence, there is fullness of joy.

TOWARD MANKIND (Diagram 220-C)

Along with this twofold dimension of vertically obeying God, God says there are two commandments. The second commandment is the horizontal one of loving mankind. You notice here in the outline are four little boxes. The word love has four letters. There is another word that has four letters that describes love. It is synonymous with loving mankind. God says if you love, this is what you will do. It's the same as the word love. It's just a word that helps us better understand what love actually means. Most of you probably learned the first verse there, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" You see, loving horizontally has to do with another dimension. Vertically has to do with obeying. Turn with me again to John and let's look at what He says the horizontal process is. John 13:34-35: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The way God demonstrates love actually exists in us, the way God demonstrated that His life actually dwells in us, is through the horizontal process of loving other people. In other words, a believer who is abiding in Christ, who is resting, who is walking after the Spirit—the result of that person’s life is a life of love toward other people. If you are struggling with loving other people, if you’re struggling with Christ’s life being expressed in love, it’s probably because you haven’t learned how to let Christ be your life. God wants us to be where we are totally incapable, so that we will in fact depend on Him to produce His life.

Look at John 15 again. Starting at verse twelve, it says: “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.” Then He begins to give us greater detail, “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” Then He says again, “You are My friends, if you do what I command you.”

So what does this horizontal life look like when we love others? What are we actually doing? What would be another word just like the word love that we could put in these four little boxes with four letters that’s the same as loving? What would it be? If love is to **give**, giving is the same as loving horizontally. When the life of Christ dwells in us the effect or the result of what happened in our life is that we give our life away. We give our time, we give our money, we give our very life for our friends. In fact, the Lord Jesus even gave His life for those of us that were enemies. The life of Christ is so supernatural and powerful that it gives itself away for those that are even enemies.

I had a young man come a number of years ago who had tried to commit suicide a number of times. His aunt called and arranged for him to see me, and when he came he began to tell a story. I can appreciate why he was at this place. You see, he grew up in this family where his

father was a doctor. When he was a young boy, his father took him to a psychologist because at ten years of age he wasn’t doing very well in school. As is true in the psychological world there are various theories that people are developing. (That means a theory is something that they can’t prove that it works; but it’s a good idea, so they include it as one of the many theories of how to help people.)

At that particular time there was a theory around in education that if you put a bunch of chairs on the floor and you had this kid crawl through these chairs, it would help him in learning. So Neil’s dad set up these chairs and had Neil doing this. After a period of time Neil thought this was kind of ridiculous. He didn’t really want, at ten years of age, to do this anymore. So his father took him back to the psychologist.

Neil gave me a letter which said, “You are welcome to share this with anyone.” What happened, I was told, was this psychologist told his father he needed to get a cattle prod and use it, and that would insure that Neil would go through the chairs. So he got a cattle prod, and Neil informed me that at times he found himself even with bloody knees crawling through these chairs to try to make himself learn better. That was just the beginning of things.

At 18, Neil was a senior in high school, graduating that year. He went home one day from school and went into the house looking for his mom, but he couldn’t find her. Well, he did find her in her closet. She had taken a shotgun and blown her head off. That’s the way he found her.

So by the time I met Neil at nineteen years of age, he informed me he had tried drugs, he had tried all kinds of things to mask the pain of his home, his family, and his life experience. He tried sex; he tried rock music; he tried everything he could try—as much as he could get of it, to try to get rid of the pain. The only thing



left was to kill himself. He really wanted to die because he felt he would finally be at peace.

I remember meeting with Neil that one day and I remember saying to Neil: "What you need to do is die. That's exactly what you need to do." He said he thought, "Oh man, this guy understands." I said, "Neil, what I want you to understand is that you don't need to die physically. Your conviction is if you die physically then you'll be at peace. I want to show you how you'll be at peace by dying to your self-life."

As I began to explain these things and show him how Christ could be his life and he began to discover this life, he then wrote this letter and I want to read what he said: "I just want to write and tell you thanks for showing me to Christ. He has shown me so much and He still shows me more and more. I am so excited to see what He has done and, also, has in store for me. If you ever need any help in anything, I give you my life. You can call on me anytime! My heart is open to you and anyone else who comes into my life. It is so neat to see how far I've come. I'm so glad my aunt found you because I know I would be dead today. I wouldn't be able to share God's love with anyone. Since I'm alive, I've watched so many people grow in Christ. You see when a person discovers this life and Christ becomes his life, what happens is his life becomes consumed with someone other than himself."

You can hear it happening right here in the letter. He says: "It is so exciting to see my family come closer together since my mother took her life and we got so far apart. I have a lot of teenagers who come up and ask me if I want to get high on drugs, but I say, 'no.' I tell them I can get high without drugs and it doesn't cost me a thing. They're always so curious and ask, 'Well, how can you get high without any drugs?' I tell them that God gives me a high to where I feel like my head is going to burst with

all the love that is locked up inside me. It is so neat to share the Word of God. Each day gets more exciting. Now when I cry, it's a happy cry. You know I used to give to myself and I didn't love myself, and now I give to others and I love myself. I feel happier giving to others than I do giving to myself. So, I want to tell you thanks. I love you so much, don't be surprised if I hug you the next time I see you."

You see the life of Christ produces automatically the result of vertically wanting to obey God and horizontally wanting to give your life away to someone else. It isn't something you have to teach or command or motivate someone to do. The person can't help it, because the love of Christ constrains him to begin to give his life away to others.

On your outline, Roman numeral number three, it says, "What Is love?" You know we went all this way through this to finally define what is love. We hear people saying all the time, "I love you." In fact, many times I have had a young woman come in for counseling and tell the sad story of some man, who even called himself a Christian, meeting her in a bar, telling her he loved her, and she went home with him. Now she lives with the tragedy of having had an abortion or whatever else. You see this word is thrown around all the time, this word "love."

The Bible says, "God is love." Yet, God is not a part of any of that kind of corrupt immorality. That isn't love, that's lust. When a young man says, "I fall into love," what he is really saying in most cases is I fall into lust. I give myself over to lust. You see as we describe love: "What is love?" A. **It is a motive that is always right or righteous.** It's never, never considering what is for my own pleasure and benefit. Its always considering what is best for someone else, giving to that person the very lifetime energy that I have, without considering anything in return for myself. Love is always right; its motive is righteous. B. **It's a decision**

of the will; it isn't something you fall into.

It's because you decided to let the Christ of heaven rule your life and as a result of Him ruling your life, you can't help but be filled with an overflowing dimension of life that's greater than what you need for yourself. **Love is a decision and a commitment for someone else's benefit and not for yourself.** C. It's a deed of present attitude and action. It isn't just thinking good thoughts; it's action on those good thoughts. It isn't someday "pie in the sky wanting to do something." It's when God speaks, and all of His Holy Spirit in all of His grace and mercy work in your heart to not only think the thought, but take the action to do it. **Love is a deed of present attitude and action.**

I would just ask you, as we conclude this lesson: Is love your living experience? Could you truly put your arms around any human being in the world and tell that person genuinely, "I love you"? Would you at this point in time be willing to give of everything that you have, because God might ask it of you, because you are only a temporary steward of it anyway? It isn't yours and it isn't mine you see. Are you enjoying this supernatural life? If you're not, I would encourage you to go back and listen to the rest of the series of tapes in the VCL that speak to how you have the supernatural life. Jesus said, "I came that they might have life,

and might have it abundantly" (John 10:10). That's more than you need for yourself. This life of love is the result of having that life. It's the effect you can't help. It just happens through you because it is Christ Himself living through you and me.

If that's not your life experience, I would pray that, today, you would make a decision to discover the answer how to have that supernatural life. Would you join with me as we conclude and as we pray.

"Heavenly Father, I pray right now that the life of love would be the living experience of everyone who listens to this video. I pray, heavenly Father, that Your Spirit would enjoy the freedom and the privilege of dwelling in, and flowing through, the lives of every believer in obedience to You—to the giving away of everything—their life, their time, their energy, and their money to those that need to know You. Even to those that know You who have never discovered You as the fullness of their life. Heavenly Father, we just thank You for the privilege of being Your children. We thank You that You loved us first. You gave Yourself without any limitations, so that You could produce that same kind of life in us. In Your gracious and wonderful name, Lord Jesus, we give thanks. Amen"