

## A Different View of Bearing Fruit

So now let us move still deeper into these things. In the Gospel of John chapter 15 we see this promise of asking and receiving what you desire. I am going to list the first eight verses of John 15 because of the repeated references to the word fruit. We hear a great deal about bringing forth fruit in our lives. We hear about the fruit of the Spirit spoken of in Galatians. What is the fruit that is so often mentioned in John 15? Is it the same fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians. Is it simply the fruit of Christian character? Look at these words of Christ ,

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not **bear fruit** He takes away; and every branch that **bears fruit** He prunes, that it may **bear more fruit**. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot **bear fruit** of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, **bears much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples” (John 15:1-8).

I think you will agree that Jesus is trying to focus on the concept of fruit. The word fruit is mentioned six times in these eight verses. He is making clear the fruit that He refers to is as a result of abiding in Him and we can do nothing apart from Him. He then makes what I think is one of the most powerful and remarkable phrases in all of the scripture. He says, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” The King James uses the word "will" in place of desire. So it reads, “ye will ask what ye will, and it shall be done for you.” The New American Standard says, “ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” Wow, whatever I wish? Really? How can this be? This promise becomes much like John 16:23-24 in that it really cannot mean what it says and it is shrouded in unobtainable mystery. Or at the very least we notice the prerequisite of, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” So we now spend our lives trying to abide in Him and to make His words abide in us with no clear idea as to what this really means. A pursuit that has no real finish line and

who would know if you reached it anyhow?

So, once again, how do we receive this promise as a reality? Let us go back to the issue of fruit which is the main thesis of the message of Christ in these verses.

### **Look again at this promise,**

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” (John 15:7-7).

What is meant by the words “By This” to which Jesus is referring? I have heard many say in preaching on this verse that God is glorified in us bearing fruit. Yet they leave the word fruit to be interpreted in a general religious sense regarding good behavior and love, joy, peace, patience etc. The fruit of the Spirit certainly cannot be separated from us asking what we desire, but the fruit spoken of here has a definitive message. **The fruit spoken of in the entire chapter is the fruit of asking what you desire and it being done for you!** You don't believe this do you? Look a little further down at verse 16 and you will see Jesus once again say,

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you **that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you**” (John 15:16).

Please take a moment and absorb this statement. The fruit, the result, the outcome, the natural progression of our abiding in Jesus is asking whatever we will, wish, desire and it being done for us!

Some may say, “I thought that God was pleased with us putting down our own wills and sacrificing our desires. I thought this was the fruit that pleases God. I thought fruit was my good deeds to help the poor and live a life of denying myself.” Well... you thought wrong. In reality, you could not be more wrong. God is not impressed or pleased with you crying, “not my will but thine”! As we have mentioned previously. Jesus cried, “Not my will but thine” so you would be freed from this warfare. We proclaim, “Not my will, it has been crucified. Your Will has consumed me by my faith in Christ.” He is glorified when we take the life of His Son and allow our wills to be completely immersed in the life of Christ. Our asking comes from the abiding life of Christ and His inheritance proclaimed in His name. A few translations of John 15:16 try to make this scripture read as a prerequisite to receiving by adding the word "so" prior to “that whatever you ask

the Father in My name He may give you”. Translators do this because we have been so entrenched in this religious mindset that has kept us from the liberty of faith in Christ. When you view the entirety of John 15 it is abundantly clear that the fruit Jesus is speaking about **is** the fruit of asking whatever you desire. He knew this would be the consummate result of the work of cross.

### **I Will Ask What I Will**

If you will give me the liberty to combine the King James and the New King James in the latter portion of verse 7 it reads like this, “you will ask what you will, and it shall be done for you.” It is difficult to write the proper inflection I wish for this to be heard. Your union with Christ will empower you to the place where, You will ask...what You will. In abiding in Christ there is no distinction or separation of My will and His will. We are abiding in one another. This is what the cross of Christ accomplished for us. It crucified our old man and the will of the old man. We give glory to God and honor to the cross of Christ when we can boldly say that we abide in Him and His word abides in us. The cross has crucified this body of sin and the lust associated with it to the point where we will ask what we will, wish and desire and it shall be done for us. By this is My Father Glorified! God is not glorified by your works driven fleshly sacrifice. This new will that asks according to the inheritance of Christ is the fruit of the New Covenant. The fruit that will come forth is the exceeding riches of His inheritance in the saints.

So how do we fulfill the prerequisite of this promise to abide in Him and His word abide in us? This is not a product of discipline, dedication and spiritual effort. Jesus places a curious message between chapter 15 verse 7 and verse 16. He brings in this prerequisite of the commandment of love. He tells us that for all of the things spoken of above to come about we must keep this commandment of love.

“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto

you” (John 15:9-15)

Before I go any further, is it not both significant and amazing the Jesus places "ask what you desire and it shall be done for you" concurrent in the same context with laying down your life for your friends? How could these two concepts co-exist? One would be the expression of total and extreme sacrifice and the other an expression of the fulfillment of one's heart's desire. This is the paramount picture of the work of the cross in the heart of the believer. Abiding in Christ so puts to death our old nature that laying down our lives is no longer fleshly sacrifice but the zenith of desire and fulfillment. They become one in the same expressed in the faith of Christ. The substance and evidence of things hoped for. Love and selfless service to each other is done so in the newness of the Spirit. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul in Galatians. You have been called unto liberty but use not your liberty as an occasion to the flesh but by love serve one another. Laying down our lives is to be done in the liberty of faith in the Spirit not in a spirit of sacrifice.

All that being said, I did not know this for most of my adult Christian life. Allow me for a moment to go back a few years prior to understanding the things I have written. In those days every time I would read these verses this elusive love commandment is all I would see. This grievous feeling of “I’ll never make it” would come all over me. I had been trying to love my brother and fulfill this commandment all my life. If the truth be told, I haven’t done a very good job of fulfilling this commandment and that would be an understatement. I mean no one ever confused me with Mother Teresa, I can assure you. All the stuff that the church folk recognized as demonstrating love for your brother was simply of no interest to me. I am just being honest.

I am now reading all of this for the umpteenth time and I became totally frustrated. I literally tossed my Bible aside and said, “Jesus, so this is how its gonna be huh? For me to get my prayers answered I’m gonna have to go bake a cake for some widow. Or go volunteer for the church bus ministry. Or go visit sick folk at the hospital. Or go volunteer to help with the youth ministry.” The thought of any of this type of stuff was just plain... Yuck. I had zero motivation and zero life to do any of these kinds of things.

So after my little tirade, He spoke to my heart and said to me, “So that’s what you think this is all about? I am going to teach you the true meaning of these words.”

### **To Love as We Are Loved**

“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my

love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love" (John 15:9-10)

I mean what else could this mean except the way in which I was interpreting? This is said immediately after He said we would ask anything we desire and it would be done for us. It is as if He is saying, "Now hold on here boys. You're going to have to keep some commandments for this kind of thing to take place. You think you gonna get everything you want without some sacrifice and some hardship?" To top it all off this commandment was the most impossible of all, to love one another AS He has loved us?

Then it goes even further commanding us to lay down our life for our friends. Notice also that He says, If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love. This reads very clearly that we must keep this commandment of love if we are to abide in Him. So the question of how do we fulfill the prerequisite of abiding in Him and His word abiding in us has been answered. Right? I mean it is clearly stated right there in black and white. We must lay down our lives for our brothers and keep His commandment of loving one another as He has loved us. This is the way I read this all my life. Again, how else could you view these things?

So how is this perspective working out for us ? Are you having much success with loving one another as He has loved us? Are you having much success at abiding in Him unto the place of asking and receiving whatever you desire? These are obviously a rhetorical questions as I will assume that you have had no greater success than I or anyone else I know. Something was just not right. This view was not producing peace and liberty in my spirit. How do you reconcile the promises of asking for whatever you desire with keeping commandments of laying down your life. How do you walk in such a lofty place of love? I know, I know, I can hear the responses now, "You can't love in and of yourself, Jesus has to love through you." This is most certainly true, but I have known this all my life and these things were still not coming to fruition in my life. There was something I was not understanding.

I knew full well that this commandment of love was not going to violate the whole work of the cross. Jesus has delivered us from prerequisites of performance, even the performance of manifesting the love of God. What I was perceiving as a commandment to be obeyed and performed before the promise of asking and receiving could be realized could not possibly be accurate. So what do we do with these things that we have just read in John 15?

I was taken by the Spirit to the book of 1st John. This is where the love of God

and our love for one another is magnified. In addition, is this not the same guy who wrote these things concerning the love of God and our love for one another in both 1st John and the Gospel of John? So could it be that the true meaning of what was said in John 15 be unveiled in 1st John? I was truly led by the Spirit to search out these things in 1st John.

I had read 1st John many times and quite frankly, each time, I came away with the same feeling of this prerequisite demand to love one another. As I began to read I started to see something different this time, a difference that would be life changing.

### **He First Loved Us is All it Takes**

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1st John 4:7-11).

We begin to see a slightly different resonance to this commandment of love. John says, “Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” This love is as a result of birth not works. It also comes forth as a result of knowing God. In what way shall we know God that would produce true love for one another? The next verse begins to shed light upon this question, In this the love of God was manifested toward us...(1John 4:9). Let me stop right here. Where is the emphasis of love being placed? On the demand of OUR love for one another? No, it is being placed on His love manifested toward us by the sending of His Son.

How shall we understand and gain a deep revelation of the love of God? This is how, that “God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.” It is in understanding the work of the cross and living every moment of our lives through Him that we come to know the love of God. Without a revelation of, “God sending His Son that we might live through Him,” we will not know the love of God. We will not be able to love one another as He loved us. I am not speaking of a superficial knowledge of the cross. I am speaking of the width, height, depth and length of knowing the love of God through the revelation of the cross. The revelation of His death that has been revealed throughout this book.

Look at the next verse. “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 (1 John 4:10). The weight of the matter is not about your love for one another. It is about His love for us as demonstrated in the sending of His Son. John is emphatic in his delivery, “ **In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us.**” John is releasing us from the arduous effort of trying to produce love for one another. He then points us to

the source of love which is the love of God toward us realized in the revelation of the cross.

The next verse states, “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another “(1 John 4:11). This verse has a texture of demand about its message. It has been interpreted as a stand-alone command. It appears to be saying we ought to be showing more love. You ought to be caring for one another more. Let’s step it up and do better for heaven’s sake! I submit to you this verse is actually stating that we ought to love one another in the same way that an apple tree ought to produce apples. If we are born of God and know God through the sending of His Son we ought to produce the fruit of being born of and knowing God.

“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world” (1 John 4:12-14).

#### The Secret to Abiding in Him

The above scripture is not saying that if we have perfect love for one another this causes God to abide in us. This is the way I interpreted it for years and the only way I heard it preached. It is saying that God abides in us by His Spirit that **He has given us**. His Spirit abides in us because we have seen and testified that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. It is because we have received the love of God toward us through the sending of His Son that our love is perfected. This perfected love that we are showing toward one another demonstrates the fruit of us having seen and testified that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. It shows that you have believed on His Son. Having believed on His Son you have received the Spirit of God that is freely given to you. If you will give me the liberty to express 1 John 4:12-14 in the context of this understanding I think it will offer more clarity.

“No one has seen God at any time. *Yet, If we love one another, it shows, proves and demonstrates that we have received the love He has toward us through His Son and* that God abides in us, and **His love has been perfected in us**. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because **He has given us of His Spirit**. And *this love that has been perfected in us proves and demonstrates that we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world”* (1 John 4:12-14).

Love HAS BEEN perfected! By this we know that we abide in Him! He has given us of His Spirit! This is not about you trying to show forth some flesh/works driven love toward your brother/sister as a prerequisite to abiding in God. On the contrary, it is proof that you have seen and testified that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world!

Some may say at this point, "I'm still not making the connection with John 15:7. What does this have to do with the fulfillment of, 'You will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you?'" Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." We have perceived this prerequisite as a pursuit of great diligence and obedience. Subsequently making this place of abiding unobtainable. I have some extremely good news. This next verse was a life changer for me. I think and say this truth often. Please read this carefully and slowly.

### **Confessing Jesus is the Son of God changes everything.**

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:15).

If you will allow me once again to express this scripture in the context of this truth and combine it with what we wrote above for 1 John 4:12-14.

*"No one has seen God at any time. Yet, If we love one another, it shows, proves and demonstrates that we have received the love He has toward us through His Son and that God abides in us, and **His love has been perfected in us.** By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because **He has given us of His Spirit.** And *this love that has been perfected in us proves and demonstrates that we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world*" *Our love for one another, the perfected love of the abiding Spirit of the Father, demonstrates that we have confessed that Jesus is the Son of God, and so by this and only this...God abides him, and he in God. And this love for one another proves we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him*" (1 John 4:12-14 Amp. David interpretation).*



**Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in Him and he in God!** Is this not the most liberating truth? This is not about you and your effort to be a super dedicated Christian. This is about believing in the Son who was sent that we might live through Him. The next verse states, “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” Once again, this has nothing to do with your effort to love.

This is about embracing the love of God toward us that was manifested in the sending of His Son. It is about the revelation of the love of God towards us as seen and understood in the cross of Christ. We become so consumed with faith in His Son that we testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. We confess with great passion that Jesus is the Son of God! As we receive this love and believe it, God abides in us by the Spirit that He has given us. We have come to know and believe the love that God has toward us. God is love. Whoever believes in and abides in the love that God has to him abides in God and God abides in Him! You have now fulfilled the prerequisite of John 15:7...period! No longer must you strive for the place of abiding. Abiding is the fruit of believing in the Son that was sent for you.

Some may say, “It can’t possibly be that simple. You mean to tell me that by just believing and confessing that Jesus is the Son God I can abide in God? Now every desire that I have is the will God and I am going to receive these things? I know a lot of people who believe in Jesus and they live like hell itself”. Well... by just confessing Christ as your Savior can save you from an eternity in hell and bring you to an eternity of peace with Him. So if there is enough power in faith in Christ to make that change then I think our wills should be no problem. Does our wills aligning with the will of God happen overnight? No, but this is the path of understanding to receive this truth and walk in this beautiful place of freedom. This is where you set your expectation for this to become a reality in your life. Before the end of this book you will have a clear understanding of these things and how the implanted word of God/Christ causes you to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.

### **Herein, By This, This is How**

We have just read that believing, testifying, confessing the Son of God causes us to abide in Him. We have just read that coming to know and believe the love God has to us causes us to abide in God. Now look at verse 17. The King James states it this way, Herein. Stop right there. Another translation says “By This”

(NASB). Still yet another says “This is how,” (NIV). “Herein,” “This is how” and “By this” is all referring to knowing and believing the love that God has toward us. It is referring to all the things we have just discovered. “By this,” “This is how” or “Herein,” is our love made perfect. Our love is not made perfect by our trying to love, but rather receiving His love for us and understanding this love by the revelation of God sending His Son. The more you see into the cross the more you see into His love for you...the more you love as you are loved. Amazing! What a beautiful life giving truth. If you are having difficulty loving others (and we all have) it is only because you do not know the yet the height, breadth, length and depth of His love toward you.

How is love perfected in us toward one another? When we gain the depth of the love God to us by understanding the deepest dimensions of the cross of Christ. By gaining a deep understanding of God sending His Son that we might live through Him is how love is perfected in us toward one another. Is this not the fulfillment of the words of Jesus when he superseded the Old Covenant promise of Love thy neighbor as thyself with the New Covenant of love one another as I have loved you. The only way to love one another as He loved us is by receiving His love for us in the fullness of the understanding of the sending of His Son. It always comes back to the cross. I remember reading 1st John prior to seeing these things. I would think to myself, “You know, he really does not emphasize the cross like Paul does. It is all about this commandment to love your brother”. Man, did I miss the boat Although his writing method and perceptive angle is different the message of the cross is the foundation of John’s message as well.

Notice the result of this perfected love...”that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17) As He is so are we... in this world. The actual reality of this statement has been beyond our comprehension. Because we have thought that such a place was ridiculously impossible and so it will be if we are left to our own devices. Just as perfected love is not of ourselves, neither is “as He is, so are we in this world”.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (1 John 4:18)

The word casteth is defined by Strong’s as to throw (in various applications), more or less violent or intense. In the outline of Biblical usage casteth is expressed as to throw or let go of a thing without caring where it falls. The message is clear. Perfected love violently throws out fear and discards it as we

would a rotten piece of fruit. The context here is the fear of punishment or judgment from God. All fear, no matter its origin or expression, is overcome by perfect love. The revelation of the love of God toward us through the sending of His Son cast out all fear.

John punctuates this entire thought of chapter 4 by emphatically stating, “**We love him, because he first loved us**” (1 John 4:19). We can confidently say, we love one another because He first loved us. This is how love for one another is perfected in us.

With these things in our mind let us return to the words of Jesus in the Gospel of John,

“As the Father loved Me, I also have 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. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:9-12)

We now have a much clearer understanding of what Jesus was saying. It was not a command of obedience or prerequisite to receiving what we desire. It is evidence demonstrating those who keep His commandments to love one another have received the Spirit of God and abide in Him. It is proof that we have testified that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the World. It is proof that we have confessed that Jesus is the Son of God. It is evidence that we have come to know and believe the love that God has for us. It is not for us to keep the commandment of love so we will abide. It is proof that we do abide by the Spirit He has given us. It is a gift by grace received by faith in Christ.

### **Perfect Love is a Finished Work to Be Received**

Jesus most certainly said, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you”... no doubt. He said it this way pre-cross, pre-resurrection. He knew how He would deliver this love to the saints. It is fascinating how John takes the words of Jesus in the Gospel of John that could be seen as a prerequisite demand and then expresses them as a finished work in 1st John. Let me show you what I mean. Let us take a look at some selections from 1st John prior to chapter 4. These will bring added dimension to the truth that love for one another and abiding in God is a fruit of believing in Jesus. It is not a prerequisite so we can attain unto abiding in God.

“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments” (1 John 2:3).

The more I read this, the more I am amazed, that it took me decades to see this simple truth. He is obviously not saying that keeping His commandments causes us to know Him. The exact opposite is being stated. If we know Him... we will keep His commandments. If the former were true then why would Jesus ever had to die? This was the whole problem, we could not keep this or any other commandment. Therefore, we needed a Savior. Remember, Galatians 2:21,“...if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

“He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him” (John 2:4-5)

Perfected love is a fruit of being born of God and knowing God which will cause us to keep His word. This proves that we are abiding in Him. I mentioned just above that John took the words of Jesus that could be viewed as a demand pre-cross and received the illumination of the New Covenant upon the words of Christ post-cross.

“Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning” (1John 2:7)

What is this commandment that John is referring to as the old commandment which they had heard from the beginning? The answer to this question is in chapter 3. “For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another...” ( 1 John 3:11). John calls this an old commandment that they have heard from the beginning. He says I write no new commandment. However, he immediately goes on to say,

“Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining” (1 John 2:8).

### **The True Light is Shining**

John is telling us that he is not changing the commandment. It is the one we

have heard Jesus speak from the beginning that we are to love one another. Yet it is clear that he is seeing this commandment in a new way. The darkness is past and the true light is shining. What is the message John is trying to relate? The revelation of Christ is now shining in his heart regarding this commandment to love one another. Even though it is the same commandment he has heard from the beginning, it is as if it is now brand new. True light is now shining on this place of loving one another as He loved us. This true light of love for one another being a fruit of believing and receiving the love God in His Son. **The commandment to do is now the commandment that has been done.** This is not a commandment to do and if you don't God will not give you what you ask. This new commandment is a prophetic declaration to empower us with ability to fulfill the commandment of loving one another as He loved us. The Amplified Classic brings out this truth in the most vivid way in 1st John 2:8

“Yet I am writing you a new commandment, which is true (is realized) in Him and in you, because the darkness (moral blindness) is clearing away and the true Light (the revelation of God in Christ) is already shining” (1 John 2:8 Amplified Classic).

**“... a new commandment, which is true or realized in Him!”** Christ in us is the only fulfillment of this command. Commands of Christ were never to be received as commands to do. Rather, His commands are a prophetic empowerment to become who He is! Jesus knew the commandment to love one another as He loved us could only be realized and become true in us by our receiving Him. When Jesus said all of this in John 15 He knew He would be the fulfillment of this commandment through our faith in Him. What looked like a prerequisite to receive the answer to our prayers was in reality an empowerment and evidence that we had believed in the Son who was sent by the Father. It is by this truth that we know we are in the love of the Father and the spirit of the world has been crucified in us.

The next verse is fulfilled by His Spirit that has been given to us by receiving His Son.

“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him” (1 John 3:18-19).

Once again, we have this message reinforced regarding love being the proof we are in Him.

John says,

“And by this we know that we are of the truth and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God” (1 John 3:19-21).

This manifestation of love that is a fruit of being born and knowing God causes us to have confidence toward God. Look at the next verse as we see John begin to shed light on the connection between the commandment of love and asking and receiving. John makes this connection because this is exactly what Jesus did immediately after He declared the promise of asking whatever we desire if we abide in Him. The following is the new light revelation on the words of Jesus in John 15.

“And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:22).

Here is this awesome promise expressed again. “Whatever we ask we receive of Him.”

And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment” (1 John 3: 23)

What is His commandment, “That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ.” Without first believing there is no fulfillment or empowering of the second which is to love one another.

“As the Father loved Me, I also have 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” (John 15:9-10)

John has shed complete new light on these words of Jesus. What appeared to be an unobtainable prerequisite to abiding in Him and receiving whatever we ask is now a gift of His Spirit.