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## Getting Ready for the Return

Learning two great benefits of an agape lifestyle.

**Jerry D. Brown**



Did you know that the more you walk with agape love to others, the more your heart can become established towards God? There's even more to it than that! If you resolve to doing so, Jesus Christ can help to bring about an increase and abundance of agape love into your life that will radiate to all men. And if that's not enough, your heart will become so established that you will stand blameless in holiness before God at the return of Jesus Christ!

Let's read one of Paul's prayers for us.

Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love [agape] one toward another,



***You must discipline yourself to manifest all the different qualities listed in 1 Corinthians 13!***

and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you:

To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. 1 Th 3:10-13

Paul so relied upon God and His son. In practice, he prayed to God in the name of Jesus Christ. In those troubled times, he knew he'd need help to get to the believers in Thessalonica. We can rely on this same help too. Have you ever prayed? Prayer is so powerful

because it exhibits trust. In fact, the more you pray, the more you build your trust in God. When you need something that only God can bring, pray and believe. You will receive. Paul was so committed to this principle. He knew the only way he would get to see these people was with divine intervention.

Paul's prayer is a tremendous message. Of all the things he could have said, one stands above the rest: to increase and abound in agape love one toward another and to all men! Agape is "the greater love in disciplined living." He could have chosen from hundreds of things, but no, he did not. God wanted this said. The message is the same today. We must increase and abound in agape love one toward another and toward all! You must discipline yourself to manifest all the different qualities listed in 1 Corinthians 13! Agape is easy to understand if you view it, not as love, but as a collection of life's greatest characteristics. An example of this is dealing with anger. If you find yourself getting

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# Getting Ready for the Return

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angry with others, you can stop getting angry by learning to put anger far from you.

We read, “the Lord make you to increase and abound.” The Lord is referring to Jesus Christ. Paul’s prayer was that Christ would cause us to abound in these agape characteristics. Now, that’s tremendous. Yes, you have to decide to walk the walk, but Christ will do his part too. What is his part? To help you increase and abound in agape. Exactly how he does that is his business, but that he will do it is guaranteed. The phrase “make you to increase” is set apart through the usage of the Greek Optative Mood of Wishing. It signals wishing or hoping and frequently expresses a prayer. The Optative Mood is sometimes called the Mood of Possibility. Paul prayed that the Lord would become involved in your agape walk so it would be possible for you to increase and abound in it. Further, the aorist tense is used. This tense signifies a “one-point-in-time” action even though the action may actually take place over a period of time. Once we became born again, with the Lord’s help, these and many other possibilities become available. The words, increase and

abound are quite subdued in English. Their actual Greek meaning is far more emphatic. Increase means to “exceed.” Abound means to “super abound.” WOW! Are these really possible and will Christ help us with them? Yes they are. Yes he will. But why?

He wants our hearts established in a most special way in preparation for eternity. He wants our hearts, the inner most part of our beings

***If you find yourself getting angry with others, you can stop getting angry by learning to put anger far from you.***

completely blameless in holiness for that great time we stand before God! What love Christ has for his church. He is showing his love to us. Now, we can show ours to others.

The words “Christ” in these verses are considered by most translators to not be in the text. The two phrases should read “Lord Jesus.” Our living and loving Lord Jesus cares so much for us that he wants us completely holy and blameless before God. Now, that’s Lordship! His kind of love is where the power really is.

Have you ever thought of what really powerful things you could do for others? Well, how about manifesting the fantastic qualities of agape? This is a most significant action God expects of us. There is real power in living with agape. We must all desire to manifest it and expect to see its great results. These results will be two-fold. You will see great things on earth as you manifest it towards all others. You will see even greater things after the return of Jesus Christ when you stand before God in holiness, completely blameless! Now, that’s getting ready for the return of Jesus Christ!

Love in Christ,

Jerry. D Brown