



Walking in the Steps of the Master:

A Twelve Step Guide to Discipleship

COME TO ZION MINISTRIES

Isaiah 49:6...I will give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.

Located in the Western Galilee, Israel

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Step Five: Walking in Love

Love is the chief characteristic of Yeshua and it is the reason that our Father has put into force His plan of salvation. This plan was on the mind of GOD before the creation of the world, Matthew 25:34; and love was the reason for the earthly ministry of Yeshua, John 3:16. It is important therefore, for the disciple to understand the true nature of love and how it is to be applied in their life.

The Apostle Paul gave what is probably the most definitive description of love in the thirteenth chapter of the book of 1 Corinthians. We shall study from a portion of that reference to highlight several key aspects of love, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT:

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

- ☆ Love is Patient: Patient is a word to describe the way that GOD deals with us. GOD could become impatient with us and give to us what we deserve at any given time; but He chooses to wait for us to come to the realization that we need to repent. This is exactly the manner we need to operate with others. Whenever we become impatient with others, they will become defensive and our ability to help them vanishes. But when we exhibit patience through frustrating times, it will eventually cause others to be encouraged to change, though it might take a long time. Patience therefore gives GOD the opportunity to work with people. Our impatience hinders the work of GOD in the life of others.

- ☆ **Love is Kind**: It is through acts of kindness that the love of GOD is demonstrated to the world. The first century believers practiced kindness in the community where they lived and people were added daily to the assembly, **Acts 2:43-47**. The people in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew (the sheep) were commended for their acts of kindness. Paul restated a concept based on Torah that spoke of our acts of kindness as placing coals on the head of our enemies, which might cause them to respond in favor to us, **Romans 12:20; Proverbs 25:21, 22**.
- ☆ **Love is not Selfish**: People can use 'love' to manipulated others to do what they want, but that is not love. Love desires to do what is the best for the other person, placing their needs and wants as secondary to the needs and wants of the person that they love.
- ☆ **Love is not Arrogant**: Due to the sacrificial nature of love, one must be humble to love. Arrogance will lead to jealousy and anger, which are not traits of GOD's Holy Spirit. Arrogance will cause people to think that they know what the best is for others, rather than seek GOD for guidance regarding the other person. A lot of vain and unproductive advise is given, because of a lack of love.
- ☆ **Love is not Offended**: Love keeps no record of wrongs that are done to them. When confronted with a wrong, the loving person will forgive the offender and turn the matter over to GOD to handle. This is not an easy thing to do but it does allow GOD to work in the situation rather than having you hinder His work by being upset. Love helps us to cast down negative thoughts about others, then to pray for them, calling for GOD to bless them. This is the manner we would want to treated, so we need to treat others the same way.
- ☆ **Love Rejoices in the Truth**: Love does not rejoice when others have to face negative consequences in their life. This type of attitude – I told you so – will cause people to reject your efforts of ministry. We need to showing loving empathy in their struggles. This is the type of situation where patience and kindness are most needed.
- ☆ **Love Never Gives Up**: Our Father loves us, so He will never give up in His work of perfecting us. If we love GOD, we will never give up in trusting Him in all situations; nor will we give up in showing acts of love to others.

It is the duty of the disciple to learn how to walk in this manner of love, so that they will show to the world, the true nature and love of Yeshua. He referred to this manner of lifestyle in **Matthew 5:14-16 NLT**:

You are the light of the world ... let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.