

*Apostle Michael Orokpo*



**WALKING IN LOVE TOWARDS  
OTHERS**  
*(Part 1)*

*Transcribed and Published by [Livingsermons.com](http://Livingsermons.com)*

# **Walking in Love towards Others (Part 1)**

**By Apostle Michael Orokpo**

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## **Foreword**

*In a generation where love is often reduced to emotion, convenience, transaction, and self-interest, this message restores the believer to the true meaning of divine love as revealed in Scripture. What unfolds in these pages is not merely a teaching on kindness or human affection, but a deep spiritual unveiling of the God-kind of love — the love that sacrifices, forgives, trusts, serves, prays, endures, and seeks the good of others above self.*

*With clarity, conviction, and spiritual depth, this message walks the reader through the fruit of the Spirit as expressed in love. Each dimension is carefully unveiled: joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control. Yet beyond definitions, the message confronts the believer with a higher call — the call to become like Christ in disposition, conduct, and response to others.*

*One of the greatest strengths of this work is its practicality. The truths shared here are not abstract theological concepts reserved for pulpits alone; they are realities designed for everyday living. From marriage to friendships, ministry relationships, forgiveness, giving, trust, prayer, and self-control, the reader is continually brought face-to-face with the demands of genuine Christianity.*

*Particularly striking is the emphasis on forgiveness. In a world wounded by betrayal, offence, abuse, disappointment, and pain, this message reminds us that forgiveness is not weakness but spiritual freedom. We forgive not because men deserve it, but because Christ first forgave us through His blood and His cross.*

*As you read, expect the Holy Spirit to expose hidden selfishness, heal old wounds, soften hardened places within the heart, and awaken a fresh desire to walk in the nature of God. This is more than a sermon transcript preserved in written form; it is a spiritual mirror calling believers back to the pathway of true Kingdom living.*

*At LivingSermons.com, it remains our burden to preserve and amplify messages that shape believers into the image of Christ and communicate the realities of God's*

*Kingdom with purity and power. We believe this message will continue to minister transformation to countless readers across generations.*

*May these pages not only inspire you, but may they also produce in you the fruit of genuine love.*

**— Wisdom Epsi**  
**Chief Editor, [LivingSermons.com](http://LivingSermons.com)**

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## *Publisher's Note*

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube at the [\*\*Apostle Michael Orokpo Official Channel\*\*](#)

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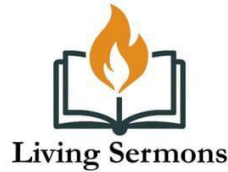
It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— *Livingsermons.com*

*A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship*

## ***Main Message***

*Begins Here*



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## *Understanding the God Kind of Love*

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We have been on a series dealing with the subject of love, and I took our time to share with you three critical components of the subject.

The first component is what I captured under the umbrella of our love towards God. I taught you what it means to love the Lord. I showed you from Scripture the blessings of loving the Lord, and I also gave a subtle warning. I said it is a dangerous thing to live on the face of the earth not loving the Lord.

The Bible says in *1 Corinthians 16:22 (KJV)*:

“If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.”

Those who do not love God are like cursed beings waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ.

I told you there are three very dangerous places to be on earth, because the most dangerous places on earth are not even the war fronts. The most dangerous place to be is:

- To be outside God’s presence
- To be outside God’s will
- To be outside God’s love

Unfortunately, many believers have taken these three things for granted.

You must make sure to walk in the consciousness of the presence of the Lord. You must make sure to walk always in the will of the Father, and you must make sure to walk always both loving the Lord and receiving the love of God. It is too critical.

So, I showed us what it means to love God, and I also took time to show us what the love of God towards us represents. Many times, we are quick to think love is just about feelings, but when we are dealing with the realm of God, we are operating at the highest level of love.

## *The Four Dimensions of Love*

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There are four Greek words for love.

The first is *Eros*. That is not necessarily in the Bible, but it speaks of romantic connection. Of course, we always pay attention to it because God created us to live and also express that level of feeling towards ourselves within the context of marriage. So, it is important to understand that aspect of love.

The second word for love is *Phileo*, and it speaks of friendship.

The third word for love is *Storge*, and it speaks of companionship and family bonding.

So, the love between a husband and wife has a component of *Eros*; there is a romantic dimension to it. The love between two friends is *Phileo*. Then the love you experience within family is *Storge*. It is a love built from a bond that exists beyond feelings.

That is why family relationships endure even through conflict. You may be quarrelling with your brother, but there is a connection you cannot explain.

Sometimes people are even keeping malice with their loved ones, and then they hear that the person is dead and suddenly begin to cry and try to reconnect. Why? Because there is a bond beyond feelings.

When you lose a loved one, it feels like a weight on your chest. It is deeper than emotion. That love continually draws people into mutual relationship.

Praise God.

But the love we are dealing with here is beyond *Eros*, beyond *Phileo*, and beyond *Storge*.

We are dealing with the God kind of love — *Agape*.

That is the kind of love we are dealing with here. Whether you are expressing it towards God, God is expressing it towards you, or you are expressing it towards one another, it must be rooted in the context of *Agape*.

## *Receiving the Love of God*

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It is important for you to pay attention to these teachings.

You already saw the enormous blessings captured in Scripture as we dealt with the love of man towards God and the love of God towards man.

One thing I found very critical when dealing with the love of God towards us is the aspect of receiving that love, because there are many people who do not know how to receive the love of God.

God loves us.

*Jeremiah 31:3 (KJV)* says:

“Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love...”

And *Ephesians 2:4 (KJV)* says:

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us...”

God loves us so greatly and so eternally that if we do not receive it, we have lost out. So, you must master how to receive the love of God.

Praise God.

You must also develop yourself and train yourself to walk in loving God all the days of your life. There are too many blessings attached to it.

The cross is the greatest expression of the love of God towards us. When God gave Jesus, He defined every dimension of His love. We have already dealt with that subject thoroughly, so I will not revisit it now.

But this evening, I want to deal with the third aspect of this teaching, which borders on love for humanity — the way God expects us to love one another.



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## *Love for Humanity*

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You can say you love God, and you can know that God loves you, but what substantiates your love for God is actually the love you express towards another person.

*1 John 4:20–21 (KJV)* says:

“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar...  
For he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

So, it is important for us to express the love of God towards one another.

Tonight, I want to show you four critical things about love:

1. Why the Bible places so much emphasis on love
2. The biblical definition of love
3. How to express love towards others
4. The blessings attached to walking in love

## *Understanding Love from God's Perspective*

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You need to understand love from God's perspective. I used the illustration of a man and a woman. What a man considers love is often different from what a woman considers love.

If you study *Ephesians 5:21–25*, you will discover that what a man often interprets as love is honour, respect, and submission.

A man may not necessarily be moved by repeated emotional affirmations. He is burdened with responsibility, survival, provision, and leadership. What gives him peace is honour and respect.

The Bible says:

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands...” — *Ephesians 5:22*  
(*KJV*)

On the other hand, what a woman interprets as love is sacrifice, care, security, and self-denial.

The Bible says:

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.” — *Ephesians 5:25* (*KJV*)

So, while a man often interprets love through honour and peace, a woman interprets love through sacrifice and security.

That is why many women measure seriousness by visible sacrifice. They are looking for evidence of care, investment, and responsibility.

When studying love, therefore, you must understand it from the perspective of the one defining it.

Since we are studying love under God, we must understand what God considers love to be.

## *Why Love Is Important from God's Perspective*

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There are ten critical reasons Scripture places emphasis on love.

### **1. Love Is the Nature of God**

Love is not merely a feeling. Love is the nature and essence of God. Whenever people genuinely express love, it reveals that God's nature has colonised them.

Love is proof that a man belongs to God and manifests His DNA.

*1 John 4:8 (KJV)* says:

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

You may quote many Scriptures and speak about heavenly encounters, but the proof that you know God is that love is expressed through you.

Verse 16 says:

“God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

Love is evidence that God has conquered a man and made him an embodiment of divine nature.

## **2. Love Is the Greatest Divine Virtue**

The Bible says love is the greatest of all virtues.

*1 Corinthians 13:13 (KJV)* says:

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

Faith is powerful. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Yet Scripture still says love is greater.

Why?

Because love is the embodiment of every divine virtue.

*Galatians 5:6 (KJV)* says:

“...faith which worketh by love.”

And *Colossians 3:14 (KJV)* says:

“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

Anybody who truly walks in love has entered maturity and perfection according to God’s standard.

## **3. Love Is the Fulfilment of the Law**

Love summarises every moral requirement of God.

*Romans 13:10 (KJV)* says:

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

And *Galatians 5:14 (KJV)* says:

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

If you walk in love, you will not murder.

If you walk in love, you will not commit adultery.

If you walk in love, you will not exploit others.

The law becomes unnecessary where love is active.

## **4. Love Is the Mark of True Discipleship**

You may sleep in church, pray in tongues for ten hours, quote Scripture, or even win souls, but if there is no love, you are not yet a true disciple.

Many activities people perform in church are motivated by personal desires and transactions.

But Jesus said in *John 13:35 (KJV)*:

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

The true mark of discipleship is love.

*1 John 3:14 (KJV)* says:

“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.”

Love is the visible evidence of salvation.

## **5. Love Gives Value to Spiritual Gifts**

Spiritual gifts have no value if they are not expressed through love.

*1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (KJV)* says:

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”

Paul went further:

“Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge... and have not charity, I am nothing.”

A person may prophesy, raise the dead, cast out devils, and manifest extraordinary gifts, yet still be nothing before God if love is absent. Even philanthropy can be done with selfish motives. Without love, spiritual gifts lose their value in the sight of God.

## **6. Love Is the Proof of Maturity**

Any believer who does not walk in love is still immature spiritually, regardless of gifting or eloquence.

*Colossians 3:14 (KJV)* says:

“...charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

Love is proof of growth and maturity.

The Corinthian church manifested extraordinary spiritual gifts, yet Paul still addressed many of them as immature because love was lacking.

True maturity is not measured merely by gifts, revelations, or manifestations. It is measured by the degree to which love governs your life.

## Love Is the Proof of Spiritual Maturity

The church in Corinth was overflowing with spiritual manifestations. They operated in gifts, utterance, mysteries, and revelations.

If somebody announced that an angel appeared in their midst, many people could confirm it with precision. They were not dealing with assumptions or emotional excitement. These were genuine manifestations of spiritual gifts.

Yet Paul said something shocking in *1 Corinthians 3:1–2 (KJV)*:

“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.”

This means a person can manifest gifts and still be carnal. A man can operate in word of knowledge and still be spiritually immature.

That is why believers must not be swayed merely by gifts, mysteries, or spiritual manifestations. The true proof of maturity is love.

Paul showed clearly that unspiritual people, babes, and carnal men can still manifest mysteries, utterance, and giftings. Therefore, love becomes the ultimate proof of spiritual growth.

## The Highest Realm of Maturity

If you study *Ephesians 4:11–17*, you will discover dimensions of spiritual maturity.

The Bible says:

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.” — *Ephesians 4:11 (KJV)*

These ministries were given:

“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” — *Ephesians 4:12 (KJV)*

Paul then began to reveal progressive levels of maturity:

- Unity of the faith
- Knowledge of the Son of God
- Becoming a perfect man
- Walking in the fullness of the stature of Christ
- No longer being children tossed about by doctrine
- Speaking the truth in love

And when a man reaches that realm of love, Paul says he grows into Christ in all things.

A man walking in love has become Christlike in manifestation.

That is why Paul said:

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” — *1 Corinthians 11:1 (KJV)*

And *1 John 4:17 (KJV)* says:

“As he is, so are we in this world.”

So, the reason love is critical to God is because love is the proof of maturity.

You may know Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. You may manifest gifts and mysteries. Yet without love, you may still be spiritually immature.

# The Danger of Gift Without Character

There are people who stand on pulpits and manifest extraordinary gifts, yet their private lives contradict the message they preach.

Some believers assume that because a person prophesies accurately or manifests power, that person must automatically be spiritually mature. Scripture does not teach that.

Jesus said:

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?... and in thy name done many wonderful works?” — *Matthew 7:22 (KJV)*

Yet He will say to some:

“I never knew you.” — *Matthew 7:23 (KJV)*

This is why believers must pursue love above gifts. Love is the evidence that Christ has truly formed in a man.



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## *Love: The Bond of Unity*

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The glue that holds the church together is not power. The glue that holds the church together is not gifting. Love is what binds believers together.

*Ephesians 4:2–3 (KJV)* says:

“With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;  
Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Where love is absent, division is inevitable.

Sometimes blessings themselves become the reason people scatter. One person becomes famous, another becomes wealthy, another gains influence, and suddenly pride enters.

Without love, blessings become tools of division.

Many congregations struggle not because God is absent, but because bitterness, offence, competition, and malice pollute the atmosphere.

People fight over positions, seats, titles, and recognition, while neglecting the unity that sustains God’s glory.

Yet Heaven is not examining your chair or status. God is looking at your heart.

# Unity Attracts the Glory of God

The devil understands that believers are unconquerable when they walk together in love.

That is why Satan often attacks unity.

*Psalm 133:1-3 (KJV)* says:

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

The Scripture compares unity to the oil flowing upon Aaron’s head and garments.

Where unity exists, oil flows.

Grace flows.

Power flows.

Healing flows.

Blessings flow.

The Bible concludes:

“...for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”

If you want to locate blessing, locate love and unity.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Bible says they were together in one accord before the Holy Ghost descended.

Unity creates an atmosphere for divine visitation.

## *Love Produces Boldness Before God*

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One of the greatest blessings of love is boldness before God.

*1 John 4:17–18 (KJV)* says:

“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment...”

And again:

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear...”

Those who walk in love develop confidence before God because love transforms them into His likeness.

The boldness spoken of here is not arrogance. Scripture shows that when men encountered God, they often fell as dead men before His glory.

But love produces a heart-state that gives confidence before God and even assurance concerning eternity.

## **The Honourable Departure of the Saints**

There is a way righteous men depart this world.

Jacob gathered his sons around him before his transition and spoke prophetically over their destinies.

Elijah knew the day of his departure and moved with prophetic awareness and authority.

Paul declared:

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”  
– 2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV)

Those who walk in love carry assurance concerning eternity.

That is why bitterness is dangerous. Love is not merely about the other person; it is about preserving your own spiritual state.

Nobody should be permitted to turn your heart bitter. As believers mature, they learn to settle offences quickly, forgive rapidly, and refuse to live in malice.

We are journeying towards eternity, and nothing must be allowed to corrupt our hearts along the way.

## *Love Opens the Realms of Zion*

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Paul prayed in *Ephesians 3:17–19 (KJV)* that believers would comprehend:

“...what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;  
And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge...”

Love opens spiritual dimensions.

When believers walk in love, they begin to function within the reality of Zion – the heavenly assembly.

*Hebrews 12:22–24 (KJV)* says:

“But ye are come unto mount Sion...  
To an innumerable company of angels...”

Love aligns believers with heavenly realities because love reflects the very nature of God. Bitterness weighs the spirit down, but love gives spiritual liberty. That is why Scripture says:

“Lay aside every weight...” — *Hebrews 12:1 (KJV)*

Those who walk in love move freely in the Spirit.

## **The More Excellent Way**

The Bible speaks of a “more excellent way.”

That way is the way of love.

Love is stronger than anointing.

Love is greater than revelation.

Love makes a man become like God.

The world may try to corrupt believers with offence, bitterness, and selfish ambition, but believers must return to the ancient paths. We must embrace the nature of God again.

As Scripture says:

“As he is, so are we in this world.” — *1 John 4:17 (KJV)*

## *Love Is the Dwelling Place of God*

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Finally, love is the dwelling place of God. *1 John 4:12 (KJV)* says:

“If we love one another, God dwelleth in us...”

Prayer provokes God’s presence.

Revelation provokes God’s presence.

Obedience provokes God’s presence.

But sustained love creates a habitation for God. *John 14:23 (KJV)* says:

“If a man love me... we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

Those who carry love carry God. They become carriers of divine presence. Love transforms a believer into a habitation of God. Do not allow bitterness to corrupt your spirit.

Choose love.

Walk in love.

Forgive quickly.

Preserve unity.

Pursue maturity.

Love is not weakness. Love is the highest expression of divine nature. And those who walk in love become living expressions of Christ upon the earth.

He walks into that meeting and then maybe you make a statement, and it reminds him of his encounters. The moment he lifts his eyes up, he will create an atmosphere in that meeting that you have no bearing to understand how it works. And because of his staring, things will start happening in the meeting.

He may just bend down and start speaking in tongues. He begins to stir his consecrations. His altar is awakened in a meeting. And then the angels that minister with him to nations, as he is operating, enter the meeting. You will start seeing things and say, “You are a prophet. Go for the next meeting.”

Oh my God!

When a man carries love, he is God’s embassy. He carries God.

Anybody who has the revelation of God’s presence will tell you it begins with love. Find ministries who talk about God’s embassy and God’s presence—you will always find love attached to it. It does not separate.

You think it is coincidence?

You hear Christ Embassy. You hear LoveWorld. They know something about the dwelling place of God. They know it. It is not power. It is not prayer.

It is love. If you pray and you do not love, you are a Pharisee. Do you not know the heathen pray long? As important as long prayer is, they do it as a ritual. And the Pharisees pray publicly. They do it as a show. Finally, why is love critical? Let me add one more reason: because every other thing will fail. Only love will abide forever.

In 1 Corinthians 13:8, the Bible says love never fails.

Never fails. Love abides forever.

So when you hear the Bible say love is the greatest, this is why. And this is why you must make up your mind to become a being of love.

Our time is gone. I will take ten more minutes to show you what love is, and then five minutes to show you how to express love. The blessings I showed you in the last two services are already enough.



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## *What Is Love?*

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Galatians 5:22 says:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love...”

Notice it did not say, “The fruit of the Spirit are love.”

The fruit of the Spirit is love. Now, there is a bit of debate about whether this is the fruit of God’s Spirit or the fruit of the human spirit. It is simple to explain.

In John 15:1–5, Jesus said:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.”

Then He said:

“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away...”

So what does the fruit belong to? The branch.

Are you seeing it?

Every branch in Him that does not bear fruit, the Father takes away. And every branch that bears fruit, He prunes so that it may bear more fruit.

So the fruit belongs to the branch, but the branch cannot stand on its own and produce fruit. Jesus said when you produce fruit, the Father will prune you so that you produce more fruit.

Therefore, when we are talking about the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22, it is the fruit of the human spirit, but that fruit is birthed by the life-force of God that is in the man.

A man who is not connected to God cannot produce this fruit.

But when a man is connected to God, he is expected to produce fruit. It is possible for him to be connected to God, for God to supply the life-force, and yet he does not produce fruit.

So while the fruit is the fruit of the human spirit, it is the Spirit of God that powers the birthing of that fruit.

Do you follow?

And it should not be a mystery, because 1 Corinthians 6:17 says:

“He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”

So the Lord is the vine. He is the One who brings the life that produces the fruit. But it is your walk with God that cultivates the fruit.

Do you follow?

So the fruit of love here is the fruit of your spirit. It is expressed through you. You are the one who carries it, even though the life that powers it is from the Spirit of God.

So the Bible said the fruit of the Spirit is love. Then it began to define love for us.

First, you can define the etymology of the word love. Then you look at the expression of that word—the practical manifestation of that word through the other words that follow.

So the fruit is love.

But that love is joy.

That love is peace.

That love is longsuffering.

That love is kindness.

That love is goodness.

That love is gentleness.

And that love is self-control.

And the Bible says against such there is no law.

## *The Meaning of Agape*

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Let us look at the etymology of the word “love” as used in Scripture. It is the word *agape*. The word *agape* speaks of three things:

1. Value
2. Esteem
3. Sacrificial goodwill

It speaks of value.

It speaks of esteem.

And it speaks of sacrificial goodwill.

So if you will define *agape*, it is self-sacrifice that seeks the highest good for another person regardless of the cost.

It is a self-expressed sacrifice that seeks the highest good for another person regardless of the cost.

So a man is walking in love when that love is a product of sacrifice, and that sacrifice is not for nothing—it is for the best of another person—and he is able and willing to do it no matter the cost.

This is what the Bible calls the fruit of the Spirit.

A man begins to produce love when his disposition toward life is no longer selfish and self-centred. His disposition toward life becomes selfless and sacrificial.

And this selfless and sacrificial disposition is for the best of others, and he is willing to maintain it no matter what it costs him.

That man has found the way of love. If that man is found, love is found. And there are many Scriptures that support this. For instance, in John 15:13, Jesus said:

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Greater love has no man than this.

It is not “I love you.”

It is not “I feel good.”

It is that a man should lay down his life. So he is not just sacrificial—even if it costs him his life, he is willing to lay it down for the good of his friend.

Jesus said that is the real meaning of love. And this is the kind of love God expresses. That is why we call it the God-kind of love. In Romans 5:8, the Bible says:

“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

So God first epitomised it, but He expects us to demonstrate it toward one another. This love is self-denial to help and bring out the best in others. And if it will cost you anything, you are willing to do it. This is what the Bible calls love as a fruit of the Spirit.

That means this love does not operate on the frequency of reason. It is not a mental thing. You are not doing it because it is reasonable. It came from your spirit. It is a stirring from your spirit.

It is not transactional. You are not doing it for gain. It did not come as a product of emotion or mental inclination. It came because it is a disposition of the spirit.

## *The Flavours of Love*

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### **Joy**

The Bible says when you have this love, it has different flavours. And the first flavour it gives us is joy.

The word used for joy is *chairo*, and it means to rejoice or to be glad. So if we put it into proper context, one flavour of this sacrificial love—which is joy—is a deep spiritual gladness produced by God’s grace in the midst of circumstances.

It is not mental.

So when it is not easy for you, but you help somebody else in serious distress and you are happy—even though you cannot explain why—you have demonstrated love.

Maybe you have one car and you are moved to give somebody else that car. You gave the person the car. You are going to trek. You do not know when next you will buy one, but you are still happy.

You have demonstrated love, but that love came with a flavour called joy. That joy is the signature that this sacrifice is true love. How many of you have been there before?

You have money and want to eat. Then you see a beggar. You do not know the person, but something in you says, “Give the beggar.”

You say, “No, me too, I need food. Love your neighbour as yourself, not more than yourself.”

You enter, buy the food, and want to eat it. It feels like a sin. Then you carry the food, frowning, and hand it to the beggar.

The moment the beggar collects it, joy springs up in your soul. Hunger is still there, but you are happy. You do not know why. That is not circumstance. That is actually not happiness. That is joy, because it is not consistent with circumstances. It is orchestrated from the spirit.

So one of the flavours of God’s love is joy. You need to know how happy God was when Jesus died. The Bible says:

“For the joy that was set before Him...”

God was seeing glory. It was painful on the cross. God felt it. There was darkness on the earth for six hours. But after the process was completed, there was great joy in heaven.

How do I know?

The Bible says when one soul is saved, there is great joy in heaven. It is a flavour.

If you are walking in true love, you will not be overwhelmed by sacrifice. Every time you sacrifice, you will be energised.

There will be joy in your spirit. In fact, when you see the people using what you gave them while you are still suffering, you will still be happy. Those who do not know love will say:

“Church has finished this man. They have brainwashed him.”

They do not know you are doing a deep spiritual transaction. You are becoming like God. The same way God had one Son and gave Him for rebels, that is how you can see somebody else and sacrifice the only thing you have for their good, and still be happy that you no longer have it.

This is proof of true Christianity.

## **Peace**

The second flavour of love is peace. You are troubled until you make the sacrifice. If you do not do it, you cannot rest. But the moment you make the sacrifice, tranquillity comes.

Peace is a flavour of love when it is the love of God. The word for peace is *eirene*, and it means to bind into harmony. It gathers your emotions together. The chaos you should have felt for living sacrificially is subdued by a power that binds you together and brings you into internal harmony and decorum beyond what your mind can explain.

So when we talk about peace, it is inner wholeness and harmony with God and with others, especially when we sacrifice. It is beyond understanding.

Philippians 4:6–7 says:

“Be anxious for nothing... but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

This is peace that surpasses knowledge. You give your house rent to an orphanage. In two weeks' time the landlord is coming, yet you cannot explain why you have peace.

You gave sacrificially for a Kingdom purpose—not because you had abundance—but somehow you still have peace.

Sometimes what you are trusting God for may not happen immediately, yet you still have peace.

I am not talking about where people are emotionally motivated to give and then start regretting later.

I am talking about where a man's treasure is, there his heart will be also. Somebody gave one million because he was told he would receive tenfold. After three months, no tenfold. Five months, no tenfold. After six months, he started calling ministers asking:

“Is this thing true? Is it Bible?”

Do you know the man met me ten years later and was still talking about the one million he gave?

The issue was deeper.

That is why here, any day we preach about giving, we do not collect anything. Go home and relax. When your spirit is in agreement, even if you do not get an immediate result, you know this is not a transaction.

It is love at work.

## **Longsuffering**

The third flavour is longsuffering.

The word longsuffering is *makrothumia*.

And what does it mean?

The ability to endure provocation without retaliation. It is deeper than patience. When you have the ability to endure provocation and not retaliate—when there is every justification for you to slap somebody—but something in you restrains you, that is love.

I saw a clip recently. I do not know what caused the argument between the man and his wife. The wife slapped the man. The man said:

“I do not want to hurt you.”

Before he could finish speaking, the woman slapped him again and again. When I watched it, I said:

“This man should be the apostle. I think this man knows something more than me.”

You disrespect me? Okay. Slap once, slap twice, slap three times—we will need superior muscles to calm you down first. But you know the reason you cannot hit back is not mental. It is a force in your spirit.

It is like it deadens you.

Did you not read about Jesus? The Bible says when He was reviled, He reviled not again. He remained calm. He handed judgment to God.

They slapped Jesus. They spat on Him. There is no record that He became angry with them once.

One time they slapped Him and He simply asked what wrong He had done. When they handed Him over to be killed, He looked at Pilate and said:

“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight...”

Then He said:

“For this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.”

They flogged Him, gave Him a cross to carry for over a kilometre, stripped Him naked, and hung Him on the cross in agony for six hours.

The word *excruciating* did not exist until the Romans introduced crucifixion. The word comes from *cruci*, which is crucifixion.

That is the highest form of pain.

Yet in the midst of that pain, He said:

“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

That is the Scripture I once wanted to disagree with.

I said, “Lord, they know!”

You cannot slap somebody and not know what you are doing.

But when a man is walking in love, he gives reasons to leave you when you deserve judgment.

This is where love and mercy become one.

When the Bible says love triumphs over judgment, this is what it means.

Jesus knew their minds were blinded by the devil. He said they did not know what they were doing.

Even on the cross, He gave somebody salvation.

If it were me on that cross, I would say:

“Even if they receive salvation, let them suffer small first.”

But guess what? Till today the marks are still in the hands of Jesus, yet there is no desire for retaliation. Rather, He still prays forgiveness.

Most of us who flare up say:

“You do not know what he did to me!”

No—you do not know what love is.

Love is bigger than what they did to you.

Forgive because of love.

## Kindness

Another flavour of love is kindness.

The Greek word is *chrestotes*. It means benevolence and graciousness.

So in context, kindness is a benevolent attitude that actively seeks the benefit of others.

When a man of love speaks to you, he calms you down. Even if you are angry, there is grace in his voice.

When he blesses you with something, you may be more touched by the manner in which he gave it than by the gift itself.

That is benevolence.

Benevolence is not just giving money. The respect with which you give it can bless the person more than the money itself.

Your attitude can make the person feel valuable instead of feeling like a beggar.

There are people who can give you something and the manner in which they give it will make you reject it.

Then there are others who can give you something and you begin to cry because of how they gave it.

That is love.

This is how God wants us to function.

That is why the Bible says if you marry an unbeliever, do not bother preaching all the time. If you show the person love, the person can repent.

When they hurt you and expect retaliation, but you refuse—even after three or four times—they will say:

“There is something about you.”

Even in arguments, when you speak, grace flows.

I have not fully arrived there myself. We are all growing.

The Word of God is a double-edged sword. As it is piercing you, it is piercing me too.

The other time, one of the workers provoked me. I called him and said:

“If you do this again, you will not be here next time.”

When he saw my eyes, he said:

“Yes sir.”

Let us leave that matter there.

But when love conquers you, even when you are offended, when you speak, the person will repent.

Love is powerful.

Over fifteen years ago, I was in Makurdi. We were driving one morning near the road safety office. A man accidentally hit a woman's car.

The woman came down in rage, ready to devour him.

But the man simply came down, knelt, and said:

“I am sorry. I am so sorry.”

Immediately the woman became like a statue.

The anger died.

She looked at him and seemed to realise:

“If I touch this man, God will judge me.”

She looked at her car, entered it, and drove away without saying another word.

The best way to fight is not by flexing muscles.

When the other person goes high, you go low. You will dissolve the person. Then you will appreciate the power of love.

It is benevolence. A gracious attitude that not only benefits others but breaks anything that is not of God in them.

## **Goodness**

The fifth flavour of love is goodness.

The word for goodness is *agathos*. It means moral excellence, uprightness, and beneficial living.

So when we speak of goodness, we are speaking of active moral excellence that seeks what is right and beneficial.

When you find a man or woman walking in love, that person actively seeks upright integrity in dealings with others.

That is why you cannot tell somebody you love them while swindling them.

You cannot tell your wife you love her while cheating on her.

You cannot hide somewhere with another woman and come home saying, "I love you."

That is hypocrisy.

Even Satan will marvel at such deception.

And if you do not repent, your evil will catch up with you.

You say you love your husband, yet you steal his money.

Money disappears mysteriously and then you say:

"I hope these house boys are not entering your room."

Who entered whose room? You are the thief.

And thieves who refuse to repent will face judgment.

You say:

“This is my friend. We have known each other for eighteen years.”

Then the friend wants to buy a car. You go behind him and tell the seller:

“The car is thirty million? Tell him fifty-two.”

Then after the deal, you share the extra money.

If you know why many people do not prosper despite prophecies, this is why.

Sometimes when someone keeps saying:

“Ah, it is because you are my brother...”

step back and start praying in tongues. You need discernment.

Not because everybody is wicked—there are genuine people—but because discernment is necessary.

Everywhere there is love, there is morality.

Everywhere there is love, there is integrity.

The moment morality and integrity disappear, what remains is lust, not love. The goodness flavour of love speaks of morality expressed in a way that benefits others.

The Bible tells us about Dorcas, also called Tabitha, in Acts 9:36–39. She was full of good works. Even when she died, nobody came saying she cheated them. Instead, the testimony was that she helped the poor.

There was moral integrity. There was goodness that brought benefit to others.

## **Faithfulness**

The sixth flavour of love is faithfulness. Anywhere there is love, trust comes naturally.

Till today, my wife knows the password to my phone. I know the password to hers, but I have never checked her phone. There is no need.

Sometimes she is on business calls with male and female partners. I do not start wondering:

“Who is that?”

No sir.

Love is trust.

Not this thing where somebody enters the bathroom and immediately you hear water running, you grab the phone.

You may see something that will wound you deeply.

Because often, it is only a crooked person that suspects everybody else.

Calm down.

You see your husband wave at somebody and your eyes are almost falling out.

The devil creates problems everywhere through suspicion and lack of trust.

How do you claim you love somebody and yet you do not trust them?

Love is faith.

Love is trust.

Love is reliance.

You cannot say you love somebody if you cannot trust them.

Anywhere there is love, there is trust.

The word translated faith or faithfulness is *pistis*.

It means reliability, loyalty, steadfastness, trustworthiness, and commitment.

When a man says, “I love you,” that love must manifest in trust. The Bible says in Galatians 5:6 that “*faith worketh by love.*” That means love is intrinsic to faith. It is inside it.

When people have failed morally before, they have a responsibility to win back trust. If somebody has failed morally, it would be naïve to trust them immediately without wisdom. Trust is earned. But when someone has not given you any reason to doubt them, it is a sin to live in suspicion.

“I won’t sin against my wife by suspecting her,” he said. “It is a violation of the code of love.”

When you love, you trust.

Why do we trust God? Because we love Him. A man who does not love God cannot truly trust God. And a man who does not know the love of God will also struggle to trust Him, because faith works by love.

## **Meekness: Strength Under Control**

Another flavour of love is meekness.

The word translated meekness speaks of strength under control. It is a form of self-control expressed with gentleness and humility.

When you find people who genuinely love, they express meekness. It is humility demonstrated through controlled strength.

A meek person is someone who can bring himself under authority. He does not react impulsively simply because he has the power to react.

That is why when your wife raises her voice, you do not prove you are the man by slapping her. If you hit someone, it only proves you cannot control yourself.

“When she is angry,” he said, “just leave her. Later, when she calms down, call her and explain things peacefully.”

True strength is not demonstrated through violence or uncontrolled reactions. It is revealed through composure.

Under heated arguments, many people want to prove superiority. But a mature man does not descend into reckless emotional reactions.

A strong man can absorb insults without losing himself.

He shared the story of one of their pastors who once struggled with anger. A motorcyclist rammed into his car, and he instinctively stretched out his hand in anger. Yet he restrained himself midway.

The lesson was simple: we all possess the ability to control our reactions. The issue is often our perception of the situation.

## **Self-Control: Mastering Your Desires**

The final flavour of love discussed was self-control. Self-control is the mastery of desires and appetites. A self-controlled man has learned to govern himself.

The problem with many people is that their desires have mastered them instead.

Paul taught this principle in 1 Corinthians 9:25–27. He explained that athletes discipline themselves for a corruptible crown, but believers pursue an incorruptible one.

Paul said:

“I discipline my body and bring it into subjection.”

You can discipline your body.

Peter also taught this in 1 Peter 4:1, saying that whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. One practical wisdom shared was this: when angry, do not speak immediately.

A respected minister once said that whenever he became angry, he remained silent for ten minutes before responding. Over time, he discovered that most of what seemed reasonable in anger appeared foolish after calmness returned.

That is self-control.

Before making emotional decisions, give yourself time. If someone suddenly offers you something suspicious, pause and seek God.

If temptation comes, step back and evaluate yourself honestly before proceeding.

Maturity produces calmness.

He spoke about older fathers of faith who respond slowly and carefully because they have seen life deeply.

He also shared a story of introducing a business opportunity to his pastor. After hearing the presentation, the pastor asked for two weeks to think about it. The younger man protested that the opportunity would disappear by then.

The pastor simply replied:

“Then I am not part of it.”

A week later, they discovered the business was a scam.

Self-control protects destiny.

Job said:

“I made a covenant with mine eyes.” — Job 31:1 (KJV)

# Defining Love

Love, therefore, is:

A sacrificial disposition designed to bring benefit to others at any cost.

And its flavours include:

- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faith and faithfulness
- Meekness and gentleness
- Self-control and temperance

## How Love Is Expressed

The Bible also teaches practical ways love is expressed.

### 1. Through Service

Love serves.

Hebrews 6:10 calls service a *“labour of love.”*

### 2. Through Forgiveness

Longsuffering is expressed in forgiveness.

Jesus taught that if a brother offends you seventy times seven times in a day, you should forgive him.

Forgiveness does not always mean continued close relationship without wisdom, but it does mean releasing bitterness from your heart.

Ephesians 4:32 says:

“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.”

### **3. Through Speaking Truth in Gentleness**

If you truly love someone, you will tell them the truth when they are in error.

Ephesians 4:15 says:

“Speaking the truth in love.”

Truth must always be seasoned with grace.

### **4. Through Giving and Sharing**

You cannot claim to love while refusing to give. God demonstrated love through giving. 1 John 3:17–18 teaches believers to love not merely in words but in deeds and truth.

He humorously described selfish people whose hands only stretch outward when collecting from others but never when giving.

Love gives.

### **5. Through Bearing One Another’s Burdens**

Galatians 6:2 says:

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

## **6. Through Prayer**

You cannot truly love people without praying for them.

James 5:16 says:

“Pray one for another.”

He lamented how modern believers often type “Praying for you” online without actually praying.

True love intercedes.

He then shared a personal testimony of how God taught him, during hidden seasons of his life, to pray consistently for senior ministers and fathers of faith. He would spend time praying for them privately without expecting anything in return.

Years later, many of those same fathers personally called for him, blessed him, prayed for him, and opened doors for him.

“You never lose in love,” he said.

Love expressed through prayer produces spiritual connections and divine favour.

## **7. Seeking the Good of Others Above Yourself**

Finally, love seeks the welfare of others above selfish ambition.

1 Corinthians 10:24 says:

“Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s wealth.”

Philippians 2:3–4 teaches believers not to act through strife or vain glory, but to esteem others.

# **A Final Charge on Forgiveness**

As the meeting drew to a close, emphasis returned to forgiveness.

One of the highest expressions of love is forgiveness.

Any man who can forgive can express every other dimension of love.

“Do not leave this service carrying bitterness in your heart,” he pleaded.

No matter what has been done against you, forgive.

We do not forgive because people deserve it. We forgive because we ourselves were forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Some people carry wounds from childhood abuse, betrayal, financial loss, broken trust, or damaged reputations.

But he urged believers to release the burden.

Forgiveness does not necessarily mean returning to unsafe relationships, but it does mean surrendering the pain to God and allowing healing to begin.

“We forgive because of the cross.

We forgive because of the blood of Jesus.”

And he prayed:

“Lord, grant us the grace to love indeed.

Let love become our way of life.”



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## *About the Speaker*

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Apostle Michael Orokpo is a Nigerian apostolic teacher and revivalist widely known for his depth in the Word of God and his strong emphasis on spiritual formation, priesthood, and kingdom influence. He serves as the lead minister of **Encounter Jesus Ministries International**, a ministry committed to raising believers who encounter Christ genuinely and live out the reality of His kingdom in everyday life.

Through conferences, leadership gatherings, and intensive teaching meetings across Africa and beyond, Apostle Orokpo has consistently called the Church to move beyond superficial Christianity into deeper consecration, spiritual intelligence, and transformational leadership. His teachings frequently emphasise the believer's authority in Christ, the responsibility of spiritual gatekeeping, and the need for men and women who can stand as watchmen over territories, systems, and nations according to the purposes of God.



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