

FAITH WORKING BY LOVE – 4
FEBRUARY 27, 2022

GALATIANS 5:6

What matters in Christ is faith working by love, not if we're a Jew, Gentile, man, woman, rich, poor, young or more seasoned individual. By faith we access grace and receive the benefits of the gospel. Since faith works by love, having a deeper revelation of God's love for us will energize our faith and take it to a higher level. Knowing this, the devil will attack us and deceive us into thinking God doesn't really love us in order to weaken our faith.

PSALMS 103:11 (NLT)

God uses distance to illustrate how much He loves us. It's so high, we can't get over it; so deep, we can't get under it; and so wide, we can't get around it. If His love for us is so massive, why is it so hard to believe it?

JOHN 8:30-45 (NIV)

Speaking to Jews who believed on Him, Jesus says that freedom comes from embracing or holding on to His teachings. The woman bound by rheumatoid arthritis is an example. Jesus gave her the truth. She's a daughter of Abraham, Satan had her bound, and she ought to be free. These Jews needed to hold to the teachings of Jesus to be free from sin, but because they were holding on to their truth, they couldn't hear the truth Jesus was trying to give them.

- **V 37-38** – Two fathers exist: the father of lies and the Father of truth. Satan specializes in deception. He packages his lies in a way that makes them deliciously palatable. These Jews were so stuffed with lies; they had no room for the truth.
- **V43-45** – Their truth was based on deception. It's not our truth that makes us free, it's God's truth that makes us free. We don't choose truth (**JOHN 17:17**). Pilate asked "what is truth"? Truth is not based on my perception, feelings or experiences. Truth comes from what God says is true.

TRUTH OR TRASH?

1. "God doesn't really love me" is trash. **JOHN 3:16** is truth.
2. "I'm not of any value to God" is trash. **MATTHEW 10:29-31 (MSG)** is truth.
3. "God doesn't care" is trash. **1 PETER 5:7** is truth.
4. "God's not concerned about my needs" is trash. **PHILIPPIANS 4:19** is truth
5. "There's no help in God" is trash. **PSALMS 3:1-3** is truth.
6. "God doesn't need me" is trash. **1 CORINTHIANS 12:21** is truth.
7. "I'm not worthy" is trash. **1 PETER 1:18-19** is truth.
8. "You can't do it" is trash. **PHILIPPIANS 4:13** is truth.
9. "I'm a failure" is trash. **ROMANS 8:37** is truth.
10. "You're too weak" is trash. **EPHESIANS 6:10** is truth.

TRADING TRUTH FOR A LIE

ROMANS 1:24-25 (NLT)

Eve didn't hold to the truth. She embraced a lie. Those who worship the creature instead of the creator, have no room for truth.

CONCLUSION: It's time to let go of the trash and embrace the truth about God's love for us so our faith can rise to its highest level.