

## **EXCELLING IN THE LOVE OF GOD!**

Paul opened chapter four of 1 Thessalonians with an exhortation to spiritually advancing believers to “walk to please the Lord and to **excel still more.**”

(1 Thess.4:1) “Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you **excel still more**”.

(1 Thess.4:9-10) “Now as to the **love of the brethren**, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are **taught by God to love one another**; for indeed **you do practice it** toward all the **brethren** in all Macedonia. But we urge you, **brethren**, to **excel still more.**” (1 Thess.3:12)

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| Today’s lesson will study <b>four aspects</b> of how to “Excelling in the Love of God” (milk) |
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### 1. We have learned that God’s perfect love is one of His Divine Characteristics (Essences) (1 John 4:16-19).

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| <b>Omniscient</b>  | <b>(all knowing)</b><br>(1 John 3:20)  | <b>Sovereignty</b>  | <b>(all authority)</b><br>(Acts 17:24-25)                |
| <b>Omnipotent</b>  | <b>(all powerful)</b><br>(Rom.4:17)    | <b>Righteous</b>    | <b>(always right with justice)</b><br>(Acts 7:51-58)     |
| <b>Omnipresent</b> | <b>(all presence)</b><br>(Jer.23:24)   | <b>Eternal life</b> | <b>(always divine life)</b><br>(1 John 5:11-13)          |
| <b>Immutable</b>   | <b>(always the same)</b><br>(Heb.13:8) | <b>Love</b>         | <b>(always selfless love)</b><br>(1 John 4:8; John 3:16) |
| <b>Veracity</b>    | <b>(always truthful)</b><br>(Heb.6:18) | <b>Holy</b>         | <b>(always without fault)</b><br>(1 Pet.1:15-16)         |

### 2. The Excelling Love of God displayed!

God’s Love was **put on display**, for the world to see, when God sent His only begotten Son to be the **propitious offering** for the sins of the world (John 3.16-18)

(1 John 2:2) “And **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

(Titus 3:4-7) “But when the kindness of **God our Savior and His love for mankind** appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope (elpis/ confident expectation) of eternal life.”

(Rom.5:8-10) “But **God demonstrated His own love** towards us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (Rom.4:25)

### 3. The excelling love of God was poured out into heart of every Church age believer.

This was accomplished by the Indwelling Holy Spirit the moment you believed that Jesus Christ died for your sins, was buried, and raised from the dead on the third day. (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; 1 John 2:2)

(Rom.5:5) “And hope doesn’t disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

**Let me make sure we understand what Paul is saying?**

- The perfect love of God has been poured out within every Church age believer’s heart at salvation.
- The perfect love of God was given through the indwelling Holy Spirit at salvation.
  - That indwelling took place the moment of your salvation (**Rom.8:9-11**)
    - (Rom.8:31-39) Pay attention to the seven questions asked.

The Indwelling of The Holy Spirit (John 14:16) is just 1 of 8 works of The Holy Spirit accomplished the moment of your salvation. (See [50 Things Free on our website](#))

- Therefore, the perfect love of God is within every believer’s heart.
- The issue is how to access it for ourselves and give that perfect love of God to others?

### 4. There are TWO (Grace given) Divine Operating Assets necessary for the spiritually advancing believer to Excel in the Love of God:

- **Walking by means of the Filling Ministry of the of indwelling Holy Spirit is one way you Excel in Love of God.**
  - a. “But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of flesh (the old sin-nature) (Gal.5:16-17)
  - b. “But the **fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Gal.5:22-23).
  - c. “But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.” (Gal.5:15; Eph.5:2)
- **Walking by means of the Faith Cycle drill is another way you Excel in Love of God.**
  - a. “Beyond all these things **put on love, which is** the perfect bond of unity.” (Col.3:14; 1 Thess.3:12)
  - b. “But **whoever keeps His word**, to him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him.” (1 John 2:5/ 5:1-4) “All who are with me greet you, Greet those **who love in the faith.**” (Titus 3:15; Eph.6:23)
  - c. “May the **Lord direct or hearts** into the **love of God** and into the **steadfastness of Christ.**” (2 Thess.3:5; Eph.4:16)
  - d. “May the **Lord direct or hearts** into the **love of God** and into the **steadfastness of Christ.**” (2 Thess.3:5; Eph.4:16)