



## Inner Growth - Love 2

**My little children, let us not love in word,  
neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.**

*1 John 3:18*

**Listens** - Proverbs 2:2

James 1:19, Proverbs 18:13, 19:20, 18:13,  
19:27, Matt 11:15

**Overcome** - Romans 12:21

John 16:33, 1 John 5:5, 1 John 4:4

**Vow** - Numbers 30:2

Ecclesiastes 5:4, Ecclesiastes 5:5

**Endures** - Matthew 24:13

Mark 4:17, Mark 13:13, 2 Timothy 2:3, James  
5:11

Love. What is it? Everyone will use this powerful word now and then, but the question is for using and saying, do they mean it? A person can conveniently announce to another, "I love you." However, excluding intimacy, our actions toward them speak louder than words: how do we know we love someone?

Love, for some, is the physical part. Their focus is specifically on the time they know that an intimate encounter will eventually come and what they care about the most over the other things in a relationship. However, when the person selfishly gets the fulfillment of that desire, their actions toward everything else may be less significant. The other person within the union experiences the result of knowing what is less than the most important. Love is beyond conditional: It is honorable, faithful, and hospitable.

For believers, love is supposed to be unconditional. Love goes beyond family and those around us that we do not know or do not know too well.

Love is beyond speech but is care, understanding, and acknowledging the areas of need where people may be hurting. Let us not love in word, neither in tongue, holds good of love to God, and Jesus Christ, yet here is to be understood of love to the brethren.

Love in speech or mouth is without emotional feelings or with a double heart: speaking one thing with the lip and designing another inside ourselves. Speaking peaceably with the mouth and with the heart laying wait. Believers should not love in this manner. It is very lawful and right to express our love to one another and all people in words, to give a good conversation and use courteous language, and speak in a kind, tender, and affectionate manner, especially to persons in distress. However, this should not be all. It will be of no avail to say to such, be warmed and filled, and give them nothing but these good words, nothing to warm and fill them with, as in James two, verse fifteen.

Love listens. Today it is easy to become angry and quite natural to open our mouths and talk, but difficult to hear and pay attention. The tendency to interrupt before the speaker finishes is quite common. No one seems to have the patience to listen to what the other person is saying. As believers, we should have an understanding heart toward each other and unbelievers, especially during a conversation. In Matthew twelve, verses twenty-two through twenty-seven, the Pharisees brought to Jesus one possessed with the devil that was blind and dumb, and he healed the man. They began to slander the Son of God to the amazement of those who witnessed the miracle. However, Jesus knew their thoughts, but he did listen to what they had to say about the experience of the man that received the healing. He did respond after they finished their slander to reply in verses twenty-five through twenty-seven.

Jesus did not have to listen to the Pharisees' remark about the healing of the one possessed, but he did anyways. He knew their thoughts and could have disregarded what they had to say. However, he let the Pharisees

speak their minds even though what they had to say did not make any sense. Jesus demonstrates His love and cares for them, allowing them to voice their opinion and eventually change from their carnal ways by listening even though they were wrong.

Love overcomes. Today couples, families, brothers, and sisters face challenges when it involves people that are overcomers. False accusations geared by assumption create difficulty for the people who are on the receiving end of it. The situation might be severely bad: How do we overcome it?

Sometimes it is not easy knowing that nothing is done wrong, but the accusers still try to pin wrong on you.

Jesus brought before the Governor Pontius Pilate had to overcome such adversity unknown to man. They had nothing credible for charges that were not worthy against Him. However, Jesus had to overcome betrayal by one of His disciples, false charges and accusation, a line of questioning by Governor Pontius Pilate, and public suggestion of His fate. All four gospels have different versions of God's son in the judgment hall. Jesus before Pontius Pilate is in Matthew twenty-seven, verses eleven through twenty-three, Mark fifteen, one to fifteen, Luke twenty-three, verses one through twelve, and John eighteen, twenty-eight to forty, accordingly.

Jesus answers Pontius Pilate about being King of the Jews. The first three versions of His response from the New Testament in the gospels have similar replies. The Book of Matthew twenty-seven, verse eleven: And Jesus stood before the governor and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

In Mark fifteen, verse two: And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest *it*.

Gospel of Luke twenty-three, verse three: And Pilate asked Jesus, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest *it*. The first three versions of the response from Jesus concerning the question from Pontius Pilate are roughly the same.

The gospel of John is a little different from the versions of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Chapter eighteen, verse thirty-four, presents more than

the other verses. Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? Jesus had to overcome the attitude of Governor Pontius Pilate, who had the opportunity to do the right with his position and influence. However, he could not overcome the public.

Love promises. Commitment in a marriage takes effort. Every day is another opportunity to work at it to make things better for both involved. The obstacles are those who oppose the union and the temptations the enemy will attempt to persuade the partner with habits and lure them from the other through likes and dislikes. The only solution for believers is to hold on to the word.

Jesus held on to the word during the betrayal and arrest. He also had to stand before the council along with elders of the people, the chief priest, and the scribes as they questioned Him in Matthew twenty-two, verses sixty-seven to seventy-one. Verse sixty-nine is an example that Jesus made the word carry Him through a difficult time. Jesus said, "Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God." In the following verse, they continued, "Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am." No one could comprehend the outrage that transpired after, but Jesus knew.

Love endures. Anybody that says they are in love or love others will undergo an endurance test to see that it holds. Sometimes love will hurt in more ways than one, and it will take courage and will to stay the course. For couples, we are not talking about domestic violence or physical attraction but enduring hardship for the sake of the other. Love covers a multitude of sins.

Jesus Christ went on the cross to save the lost and redeem us from our sins. In Matthew twenty-seven, verses twenty-one through twenty-four had to endure the hardness as He upholds the will of the Father. The governor answered and said,, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?

*They* all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let

him be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see *ye to it*.

What is love? Love begins with listening, being quick to hear and slow to speak. Overcomes adversity and not giving up or giving in. To stay true to God and His Word and endure to the end.