

Compelling Love!

GOLD Series Part II

By Colin Barnes



Recap - Values

Goodness

Openness

Love

Dynamic Power



God Empowers Us

- ◆ Openness is core to who God is
- ◆ Freedom Empowers the other
 - ◆ We are free
 - ◆ We bring freedom
- ◆ He's relational



Real Consequences

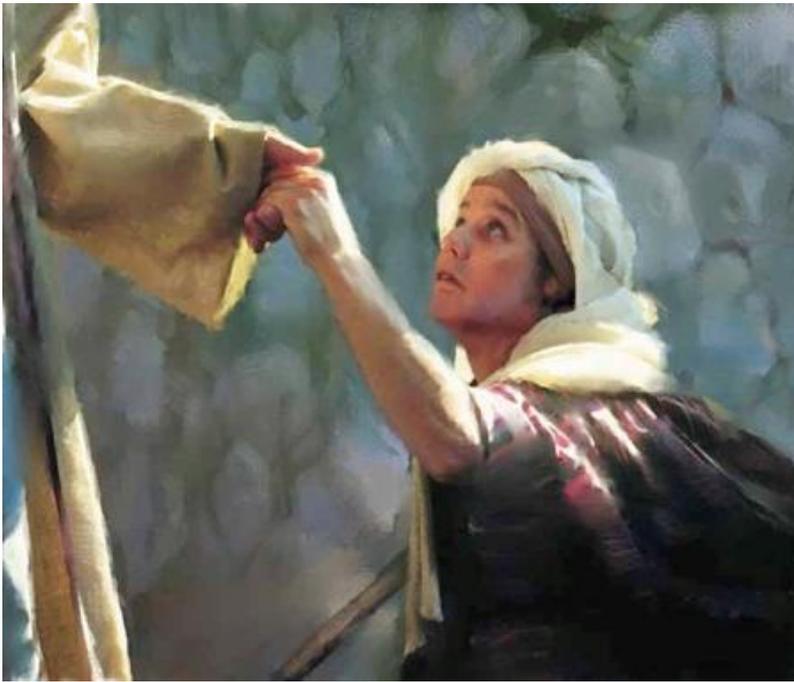
Love is Possible...



...but so is suffering



God is Good & Hates Suffering



- 🟢 Jesus said so – Luke 18:19
- 🟢 Jesus was moved by our suffering
- 🟢 Jesus did so – Acts 10:38
- 🟢 No more pain – Revelation 21:4

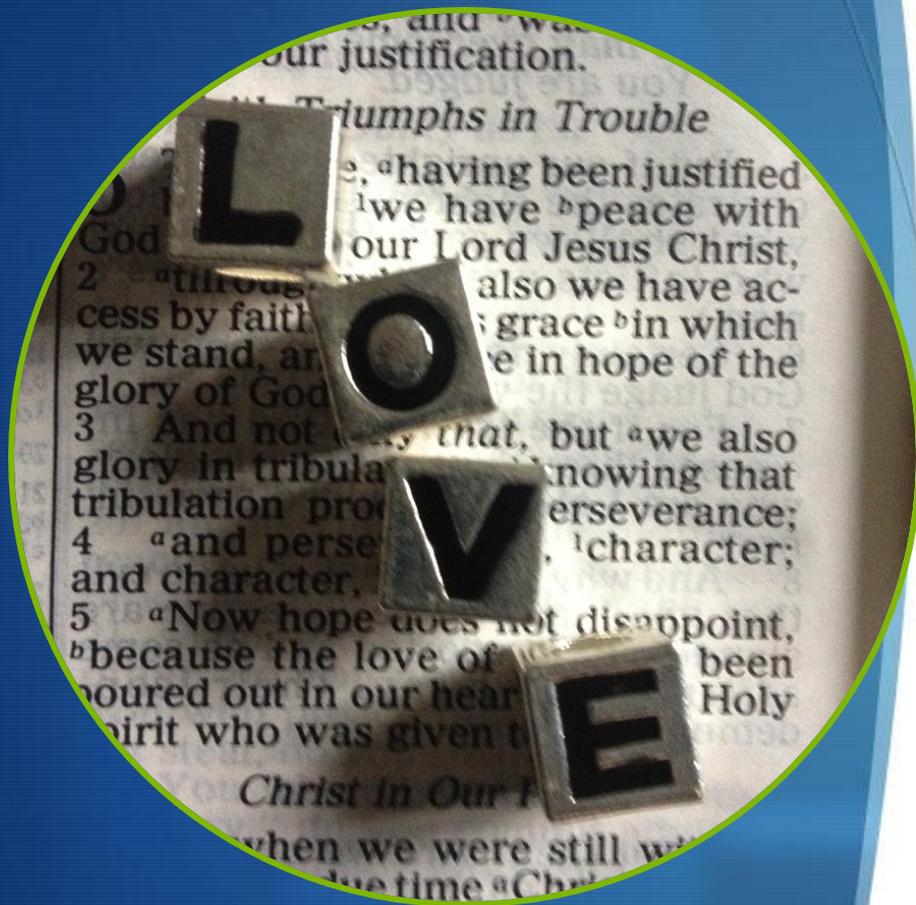
So we Adventure!



- ◆ We walk by faith – 2 Corinthians 5:1-7
- ◆ Knowing He is for us and looking to work good through us – 2 Chronicles 16:9

It is *ALL* about Love





Love Shapes

“Who we are and who we become depends, in part, on whom we love. (144)”
— Thomas Lewis, *A General Theory of Love*

The Bible Agrees

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-20

So How Do We Love God More?

Pray for one another, asking God's help
To be filled with the Spirit



Back to the Suffering Question

- ◆ “Why did God make the assassin bug?”
- ◆ “Why did God take my daughter?”
- ◆ Why does God heal a headache whilst making 4 million refugees?



Things are not as God Intended

- ◆ Cursed is the ground because of you...
Genesis 3:17
- ◆ Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job... Job 2:7
- ◆ Cain rose up against Abel his brother...
Genesis 4:8



Three BIG Problems... one Bigger God

- ◆ The earth is damaged
- ◆ Spiritual forces oppose us
- ◆ Men hurt one another

- ◆ BUT God is with us!
Isaiah 41:10

God says

**Don't panic. I'm with you.
There's no need to fear
for I'm your God. I'll give
you strength. I'll help
you. I'll hold you steady.
Keep a firm grip on you.**



Isaiah 41:10

Jonah (Dove) c.760BC



- ◆ God moved by human tears – 1:1-2
- ◆ God changed His mind – 3:10
- ◆ God has pity – 4:11
- ◆ Jonah knew God is abundant in loving-kindness! 4:1-2

That's What Jeremiah said

The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy *it*, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of (*change my mind about*) the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.

Jeremiah 18:7-8

Jesus Loved Zacchaeus to Life

Luke 19:1-10

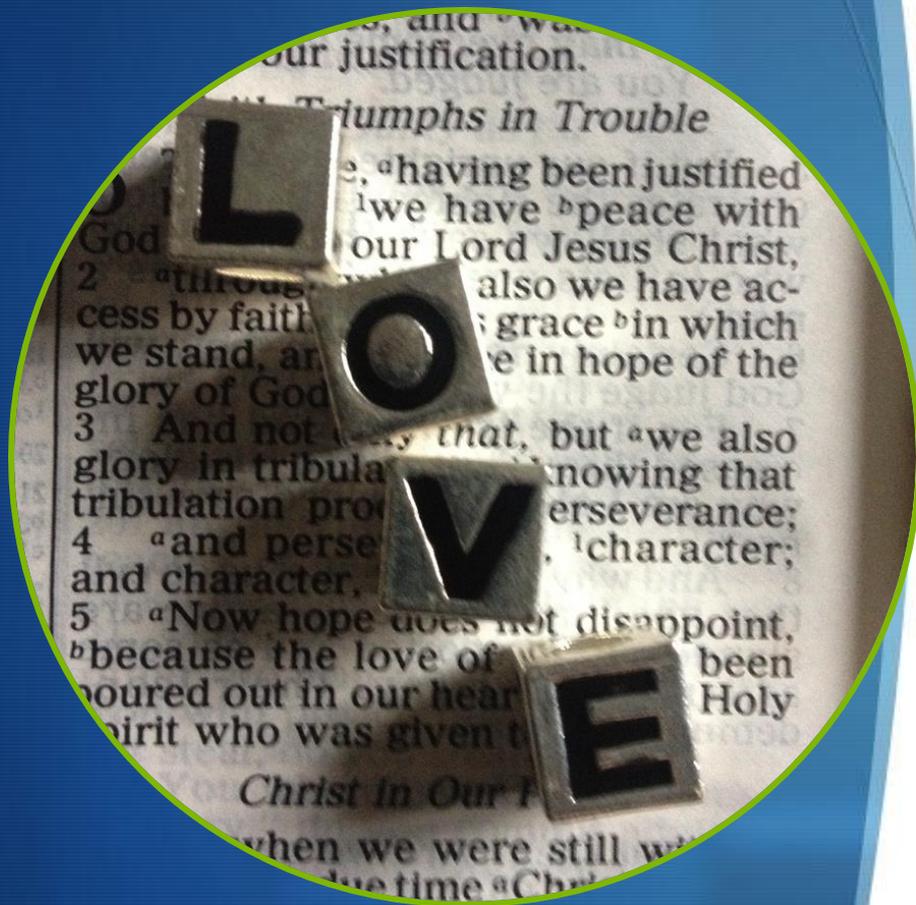
- ◆ Chief tax collector!
- ◆ Jesus accepted him
- ◆ Jesus did not judge him
- ◆ Jesus' love transformed him
- ◆ Jesus came to seek and to save



Will we allow Jesus to stay with us?

When we do we experience His great love





Love Compels

- 2 Corinthians 5:14
- Those who have been forgiven much, love much – Luke 7:47
- Lo! How great is the love the Father has lavished on us! 1 John 3:1
- The more we realise we are so loved, the more we *must* love.