

LOVE IN ACTION — CONTINUED

We've been looking at **heavenly crowns and heavenly rewards** and the fact that God's Word promises them.

Mark 9:41

"For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

Think about it: God notices even the smallest acts done for Christ. Something that may seem insignificant to us can still have eternal value to Him.

Colossians 3:2

"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

This is the mindset we want as we live out Jesus' command to **love one another just as He loved us**. When our attention is on eternal things, we begin to see everyday opportunities to love and serve people differently.

But we don't want to simply **know** what the Word says. We want to **be doers of the Word**.

Last week we saw that love in action means:

Serve one another • Care for one another • Bear one another's burdens

Tonight, we continue with more ways Scripture teaches us to put love into action. Pasted text

1. BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP

Romans 14:19

"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another."

Building people up requires intention. Paul tells us to **pursue** the things that bring peace and strengthen the people around us.

Romans 15:2

"Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification."

Love shifts our focus away from ourselves. Instead of always asking what benefits us, we begin considering **what will benefit and strengthen someone else**.

1 Corinthians 14:26

“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”

When believers come together, what each person contributes should ultimately help **strengthen and build the body**.

Compare this with:

1 Peter 4:10

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

God gives each of us gifts, but those gifts aren’t intended to stop with us. **What God places in us becomes something we can use to bless others.**

Every Person Has a Part

Ephesians 4:15–16

“But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Notice the phrase **“every part does its share.”**

The body of Christ grows when each person contributes what God has given them. We aren't spectators—we each have a place, a purpose, and something to contribute.

When every part participates, the whole body becomes stronger.

Our Words Should Build People Up

Ephesians 4:29

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

Our words can leave someone stronger or weaker than they were before we spoke.

The goal isn't merely to avoid harmful speech. We can intentionally use our words to **give grace, encourage growth, and strengthen others.**

Our actions should build the body—and **our words should too.**

1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

Building others up shouldn't be an occasional event. It should become a **normal part of our relationships with one another**.

Jude 20

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.”

There is also a **collective aspect** to growing in faith. As believers become stronger in their faith, the entire body is strengthened and better equipped to strengthen others. Pasted text

KEY QUESTION

Will what I'm about to say or do tear someone down—or help build them up?

2. ENCOURAGE & COMFORT ONE ANOTHER

Love pays attention. It notices when someone is discouraged, hurting, fearful, or simply needs to be reminded of what God has said.

1 Thessalonians 4:18

“Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

Sometimes encouragement isn't about finding something new to say. It's about **bringing someone's attention back to what God has already promised**.

When circumstances are loud, we can help one another make **God's Word louder**.

Encourage Each Other Regularly

Hebrews 3:13

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

Encouragement isn't only for moments of crisis. Scripture presents it as something believers should give one another **regularly**.

A timely word may help someone remain steady when they're beginning to struggle.

Hebrews 10:24–25

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Notice the words **“consider one another.”**

That requires us to look beyond ourselves.

Pay attention. Notice people. Think about what might strengthen or encourage them.

Philippians 2:3

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

This is another part of love in action: **choosing to value others rather than continually putting ourselves first.**

Our gatherings aren't only about what **we receive**. They're also opportunities to consider what we can **give to someone else**.

Comfort Others With the Comfort We've Received

2 Corinthians 1:3–4

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

God can use what He has brought us through to help someone else.

The comfort He gives us doesn't necessarily end with us:

God comforts us → We carry that comfort to someone else.

Our experiences with God can become part of how He ministers through us.

Encourage Each Other Through Faith

Romans 1:11–12

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”

Paul expected encouragement to go **both directions**.

Sometimes we strengthen another person, and sometimes **their faith strengthens us**.

KEY

Your faith doesn't affect only you.

Watching you continue to trust God may be exactly what someone else needs to help them keep trusting Him too.

3. PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can put love into action because we are bringing another person and their needs **before God**.

Jesus Prays for Us

John 17:20–21

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

Jesus' prayer reached beyond the disciples standing in front of Him to those who would believe later.

Jesus modeled intercession.

If He intentionally prayed for others, prayer should also be part of how **we love others**.

Pray for Each Other

James 5:16

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

There's a difference between saying “**I'll pray for you**” and actually carrying that person before God in prayer.

Love follows through.

And James reminds us that prayer isn't an empty gesture—**prayer is powerful and effective**.

Pray for All Believers

Ephesians 6:18

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—”

Prayer requires attentiveness and perseverance. We continue standing with others rather than forgetting their need once the conversation ends.

Colossians 1:9

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”

Paul didn't only pray when something was wrong. He prayed for believers to **grow spiritually and understand God's will**.

That's an important reminder that our prayers for others can go beyond asking God to change their circumstances. We can pray for them to **grow stronger in Him through those circumstances**.

1 Timothy 2:1

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.”

Our prayers shouldn't be limited to ourselves or even to those closest to us. God calls us to develop a heart of **intercession for others**.

KEY

Prayer is one way we help carry someone else's need.

We may not be able to fix their situation—but we can bring them before **the One who can**.

CHRIST DID IT FIRST

Everything Christ asks us to give to others reflects something **He has already given to us**.

He loved us.

He served us.

He cared for us.

He carried our burdens.

He strengthened us.

He encouraged and comforted us.

He prayed for us.
He gave Himself for us.

Now, having received from Him, **we have something to give to others.**

Matthew 10:8

“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

What we've freely received from God isn't meant to stop with us.

We receive from Him → then become people through whom He can give to others.

Acts 3:6

“Then Peter said, ‘Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.’”

Peter couldn't give what he didn't have—but **he freely gave what he did have.**

The Principle

Receive from Jesus. Then freely give from what you've received.

LOVE IN ACTION — SO FAR

Love is the heart from which everything else flows.

THE HEART OF IT ALL: LOVE

Matthew 22:37–39

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.
This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

LOVE GOD



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

And what does **loving one another** look like in action?

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

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Serve one another

Care for one another

Bear one another's burdens

Build one another up

Encourage & comfort one another

Pray for one another

These aren't separate ideas disconnected from love.

They are some of the ways we SHOW love.

Serving is **love in action**.

Caring is **love in action**.

Bearing someone's burden is **love in action**.

Building someone up is **love in action**.

Encouraging and comforting are **love in action**.

Praying for someone is **love in action**.

So the heart of this entire study isn't simply:

"What am I supposed to do for other people?"

It's:

"How does the love I've received from Christ become visible through the way I love others?"

And all of this brings us right back to our mindset:

Colossians 3:2

"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

We don't love, serve, encourage, or pray for people simply because we're trying to earn a reward.

We do these things because **Christ loved us first**. We have received His love, and now His love should be expressed through us toward others.

At the same time, God wants us to know that **faithful service is seen by Him and has eternal significance**.

So when no one notices the prayer...

When no one sees the encouragement...

When serving feels insignificant...

When all you did was help someone carry a burden...

God noticed.

Mark 9:41 reminds us that if even **a cup of water** given in Christ's name matters to Him, then there really is no act of genuine Christlike love that is too small.

FINAL THOUGHT

Keep your mind on things above.

Receive from Christ.

Love one another.

Then put that love into action.

Because loving one another isn't simply **one thing** on our Christian to-do list.

Love is the heart of it all—and everything underneath it is how that love becomes visible.