

Come Up Higher In His Love



Training Pac

"Christian Character" Series

INSTRUCTIONS

This TRAINING PAC has a text and a separate Workbook that contains the exercises for the text. Follow these steps:

1. Read through the entire text to obtain an overview of the text content.
2. Then reread the text while completing the exercises in the Workbook.

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This has been transcribed from a taped message by Rev. Agnes Numer, director of Sommer Haven Missionary Training Center, during her training seminar called "Christian Character".

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-15

1. *"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved."*

Paul is talking to the Philippian people.

2. *I beseech Eudias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.*

3. *And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow laborers, whose names are in the book of life.*

4. *Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.*

5. *Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.*

6. *Be careful for nothing; but by everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

7. *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

8. *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

9. *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

10. *But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at least your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.*

11. *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

12. *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

13. *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

14. *Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.*

15. *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

I'm going to stop there.

1. Our Human Love Does Not Compare With God's Love

Paul was well pleased with the Philippians, and he loved them very dearly. He states that they were his joy and crown. He said, *"So stand fast in the Lord..."* He gave instruction to them, but he also is saying to pray: *"... in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Tonight I believe we need to renew these words in our own life. Here in this place, where we are so close to one another, it's not so easy because some are more processed than others; some have been through the fire a little more – and have a lot of stuff burned out. And some haven't had it yet. Paul was kind of allowing all of this. *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

God's love is so mighty. He wants to do so much in our life that will change our life. He wants to remove that which is human in nature, and He wants to let God's peace come, and keep our hearts and minds through Him. There are times when we are moved by circumstances; the Lord is wanting to change us so that we can be like Him. I truly believe that God wants to so transform our lives with His love that we do not have the interference of human love – realizing that God's love surpasses anything else. God is doing the impossible in everyone of our lives so that we can go forth in His love and that His love is going to reach the world. I do not believe that human love mixed with God's love is perfect. I believe it's imperfect. But what God wants to do for us is to remove the carnal love and put a love for others that we will not be affected by circumstances. For example, if we are loving somebody, helping someone, and they do something very bad against us, then we are hurt and we go on the defensive. But God is saying. I'm going to turn in a minute to it, and I'm going to read it to you – I'd like to have the Amplified (Bible). I want you to remember the peace of God – the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and your minds through Christ Jesus.

I want to turn to 1 Corinthians 13. "And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ". 1 Corinthians 13:4 says: *"Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited, (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. God's love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it, (it pays no attention to a suffered wrong). It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes; is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything (without weakening). Love never fails, (never fades out or become obsolete or comes to an end). As for prophecy (the gift of interpretation of the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away; (it will lose its value and be superceded by truth)."*

I believe we are living in the hour of the Spirit of Truth. I believe the Spirit of Truth is going to take the place of these other things. I believe God is bringing it strong into our lives that we may know the truth – that we may walk in the truth and obey the truth. And He has given us His peace, which is beyond anything that we can understand. Our human love does not compare with God's love. We fail with it. We get affected by it. Our emotions are involved with it, and they get torn up. But if we allow God to remove these things from our lives so that His pure love is in there – His pure love responding to every situation – then we will not be affected by the situation. And I grant you that it's very difficult for us many times to be silent when we feel we need to speak out. It's difficult for us not to be angry when situations arise that try us to the limit. God gets angry, too, remember that; but His anger is different than human anger. His anger is different. Our anger has many things that His love does not have. The anger that comes out of us is not God-given, mostly. Sometimes God will come in His anger, but He is saying to us that He wants His love to take the place of this human love that is not good. It's selfish, it's self-centered, it's self-seeking, it's all of these things – it's jealous, it's vainglorious, it's boastful and it gets haughty. But God's love does not do any of that.

II. God Is Perfecting Us With His Love

But, you know you don't learn this overnight. You learn it by processing. We learn it by the processing God is doing in our life. I remember a time in my life when the Lord said to me, "You cannot love your husband, you cannot love your children more than you love the stranger coming out there." Well, that was a pretty big "wallop". How could I do that? Only if I permitted Him to take from me that which is not like Him, not His love. We have love one for another, but it may not be God's love; it may be just a thing we feel one toward another. But when we have God's love in us, then we feel differently. God does something that helps us in any situation that we don't know how to handle. I can tell you in this place we have trying times. Trying times with one another; trying times with the children; and trying times with ourselves – because we kind of like our own life. But with God's love in your life, you try to be careful concerning what you say, what you do, how you act. Some of you do not exemplify God's love very much, huh? How many know that? You know that. And sometimes when you don't exemplify His love, the teachers get angry, the school gets torn up, and spirits run everywhere. And then we had to get in and pray, and get rid of it. Well, God is perfecting you, too, with His love. And one day you'll be able to stand in a congregation of people, and you will only feel God's love for one another, because He will take everything else out of our life – if we will let Him.

One thing about the Lord – sometimes we slip up; we say and do things. But just as soon as we do, something happens. How many know that? Pretty soon we're aware that really wasn't the Lord, but it was our own reactions, huh? God is perfecting us in His peace; He's perfecting us in His love. He said all these things are going to pass away, but My love will NEVER pass away. My peace will NEVER pass away. My joy will NEVER pass away. So, He's wanting, under any and all circumstances, that we can rest in His peace, we can rest in His love, and we can have His joy; in the midst of all kinds of circumstances, the Lord will keep us.

He was saying here, *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds ..."* Not just your heart, but your mind. *"...through Christ Jesus."* These things will not change. Heaven and earth will pass away, but Jesus said "My word shall NEVER pass away." And what's He doing in our life is forever. Amen? He's removing from us the hindrances, He's removing from us the things that, if we're trained here to go out to other countries, it's very, very important that we are trained in the little things. It's very important that God's love is what is governing our life. It's very important that His peace is there, and His joy is there. Because it's these which He has imparted to us that's going to tell the world out there that Jesus loves them. And this is why the children, this is why the young people, this is why the older people – all of us – need to allow the Lord to remove the junk out of our life, and let the flesh go, so that we can have His pure love abiding in us. We do not exemplify Him when we go in fits of anger. We do not exemplify Him when we want our own way, doing our own thing. Because we're training you here to know how to walk with the Lord and do things His way. And I know God's about ready to do something that you might not like. But this word tonight means that He wants us to come into a relationship with him, with His pure love and peace and joy, so that we can flow together in whatever God has for us to do in this place. His peace, His love, His joy... I can tell you that I have much more patience, I have much more endurance at 80 years that I had at 40 years. I can tell you that He's done a lot in my life, and He can do the same in yours. It doesn't have to take 40 years to do it. All it takes is a determination to let the Lord change our life. And it can be done quickly, if we really choose to walk in His love, and let go of the stuff we call love.

III. God's Love Doesn't Expect Anything In Return

We get hurt by our love and it hurts us. God's love doesn't hurt us. God's love doesn't expect anything in return. It's pure – it reaches out and loves everybody without wanting anything in return. If you're wanting something in return, then there must be some of your own desire there and your own love. God is saying, "Don't expect anything from other people. Love them with the love of the Lord, and they will respond with God's love." But if we show anything else, we're hindering what God wants us to do, what He wants us to be. He wants His love to change our life. It's up to us. It's not conceited, it's not arrogant, it's not inflated with pride. It's not rude. God's love does not insist on its own rights or its own way. For it is not self-seeking, it's not selfish, it's not touchy, it's not fretful and not resentful. It takes no account of the evil done to it. We need that, don't we? We need that. 'Cause pretty quick, somebody does something to us, and something rises up inside of us in defense or whatever you want to call it.

Many years ago God was dealing with me, and I said, " But God, I don't deserve that kind of treatment." How many of you have ever said that? "God, I don't deserve that kind of treatment." I was pretty stubborn about it, because I was sure I was right. I was positive I was right, that I didn't deserve that kind of treatment. But God said to me, "You hard head! It doesn't matter whether you deserve it or you don't deserve it – let go of it!" This is what happens with us: we act a certain way, and the Lord says, "Just let go of it. It doesn't matter." God's love doesn't take notice of those things. God will give it to you. Some of you that have been with me so many years – Van's been with me 25 years – some of you know a little bit of what I went through in those years. There was one man that we had helped an awful lot, and he was a preacher, and we had helped him and got him out of a situation and out of another – prayed him out of it – with his family and with all kinds of things. And when he'd talk about me, he'd call me "that woman." "She...that woman," you know. All the years that I helped him, I said, "How long, Lord, am I going to have to help this man? And not even get any respect out of him." He didn't even remember my name, after years and years of helping him. Well, sometimes these things we have to put up with. But how do we react to it? I just said, "Lord, I think I've helped him long enough." But the Lord didn't feel that way. "But, Lord, I've had enough." One time I said, "Lord, I'm going to put the padlock on the door, and I'm not going to have any more people come ever again." I only said that a couple times to the Lord. But the Lord said, "Now you know you're not going to do that."

God's love is what has to reach out and change hearts. Children's hearts, adult's hearts, everybody's hearts. God's love has to do it. We can't do it by beating them. We can't do it by yelling at them. We can't do it by screaming at them. We can't do it by getting angry with them. We can't do it that way. Sometimes we feel like it, and sometimes we do it, but it won't work. His love endures all things. There comes a time when God says, "That's enough." There have been a few people in my life that God has brought me to them and said, "You don't have anymore to do with them. It's finished." Thank God, not too many. But because the Lord said it was enough, we drew back, and those people never went anywhere with God. They went backward, because God knew their hearts. God knew the very things they were doing against Him and against His Spirit and His Word and against His love.

IV. Love Endures Long And Is Patient

But tonight the Lord wants to build up in everyone of us this love that endures

long and is patient. Most people – young people – don't have any patience. But patience is something you learn by enduring. And sometimes I hear remarks of the children one to another, and I can tell their not enduring anything. They are not showing God's love, and they are not enduring anything. But God says His love endures. It's patient. It's kind. We need today to hear His Word and say, "Lord, fill me with Your love. Fill my heart, fill my mind, fill my body with Your love."

It must be precept upon precept, precept upon precept and line upon line, line upon line, and line upon line, here a little and there a little, here a little, there a little, ... God change our life. And that's the hardest thing we have to do. Why? He says, "I'm only putting My love in you. So that when you go out there to other countries, they're going to know that you've been sent by Me. And that My love is in you, and they are going to respond to My love." Every human being, unless they've turned reprobate or powers of satan totally control them, is affected by God's love. God is calling us to intercede, to pray, to love one another, to uphold His Word, to show His love even when the situation is unlovely. God is so faithful to us, that we need to be faithful to Him. We need to remember this Word that He's giving to us tonight.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which ye have both learned and received and heard and seen in me," Paul said, *"...do."* He didn't say, "You hear me say it," did he? Now listen to it: *"And heard and seen in me..."* A little different than just hearing it, huh? *"...and the God of peace shall be with you."* In this place God imparts with every Word that He gives out of this Bible – He imparts it to you. You have the right to receive it. You have the right to make it your very own, because He's giving it to you. So, tonight, if you want to come up a little higher in His love, receive it! Because He's giving it to you so that you can be like Him. He's giving it to you, because Paul said, *"What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me..."* Paul was the example that God used to show the people His love and His Word. *"That which you have both learned, received and heard and seen in me,"* Paul said, *"...do."* *"...do, and the God of peace shall be with you."* He's putting it really right out there. He's imparting it to us tonight. Now I declare unto you He's going to try you. I know so. So *"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."* Amen? Then love one another with the love of God, and it won't bounce back. We won't become sour or bitter or resentful, but it will flow from Him and from you to others.

When we went into Africa, and into India, God sent us. He had prepared us, so that when we went, we would not be afraid. He prepared us in His love that when we went, they would know it was God. We went into cannibal villages, we went into all kinds of villages. We went into a Moslem village, and the man who loaned us His jeep was a Moslem, to go in to convert his Moslem people to the Lord. We went in there ... and the minister with us said, "Well, we won't be here long, because they're Moslem." Do you know what happened? I said, "Lord, You give me the words that's going to touch the hearts of those Moslems." And He did! And they gave their lives to Jesus. They came out of the fields, and they kept coming and they kept coming. There was a man and a woman there, and the Lord told me to give them this Bible and to tell them to nurture and train these people by the Spirit of the Lord. They stood there and tears run down their face, and they said, "We know that's God, because God has put in our hearts to do that for the people." We had to go; we couldn't stay. We don't know what happened, but we do know God put the care of it with someone whom He had appointed to take care of them.

Never once did they say to us, "It isn't God" or "It isn't God's love." They knew it was God's love. They knew that God had sent us. And this is true of our lives; we need to know what we have heard and seen by His love, then Paul says, "...do it." "...do it."

V. The Greatest Of These Is Love

Tonight I thank the Lord for what He is doing in every one of our hearts, and we need to press in. We need to allow His love to take the place of all the other things that we have that's not beneficial to us, or to Him. It won't work. Only God's love is going to work; only His joy is going to work – His faith operating in us. The greatest of these is His love. God wants to bring us into that relationship so that we can do the right things when we're dealing with people and dealing with children. So that we don't damage them, but that His love prevails over everything else. I grant you there is an aggravation by the enemy a lot of times that we would like to do something different, but I believe that God is bringing us into a place with Him that will help us to have understanding and patience with every situation. Because God wants to put His love in us and remove the "mixture," so that He can make us strong to go out there and win people of any faith or all faiths to Him. Because He's the One that's going to do it. We just need tonight to let Him do it. Paul said here: *"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."* And if he felt He was at hand, how much more do we know that He is at hand, and that we need God to prepare our hearts so that He can use us in touching other hearts and other lives.

Closing Prayer

Father, we thank You for the Word tonight. We thank You, Lord Jesus, that You made the way for Your perfect love to be in us. God, we thank You that You so loved the world that You gave Jesus to us. And, Jesus, You so loved us, that You died for us. Now, Lord, let us so love You that Your love will saturate our hearts, our minds, our entire being. Impart Your love to us tonight, Jesus. Let all these other things pass away. But let Your love remain tonight in our hearts and in our minds. We thank You, Lord Jesus, for Your Word, but we thank You for what You have done to bring it to pass that we might have this love abiding in us. That we might reach out to the unlovely, the uncared for, those who don't have anybody to love them or to care for them. God, teach us Your ways that we may walk in them, and that we might fulfill Your Word according to your Word and according to Your Spirit. Jesus, we thank You tonight for this Word. Let it sink into our hearts. Let us move by it, Jesus. Let us desire more than anything to let Your love fill every part of our being until others can see Jesus in us. Lord, we thank You for this Word tonight. Let it penetrate to the depths of our being tonight, Lord, and cause us to respond with your love, that we might love one another.

Bless this people tonight, each and every one that's here. Let Your love penetrate into them tonight, and let these other things pass away. But let Your love remain, Jesus. Let Your peace remain. Let Your joy remain, Lord, that our joy may be full. We thank You for this Word tonight. Jesus, we praise You now for the impartation by Your Spirit of Your love, Your peace, Your joy, Your righteousness and Your holiness, Lord. Make us to be Your people that desire You more than anything in this world, that You might use us to bring the world to Jesus. Jesus, we thank You tonight for this precious Word that You've imparted to us. We thank You for the growth by Your Spirit, Lord, according to Your Word. We give You glory now, Jesus, and we praise You for everything You have done and are now doing, and we thank you for the finished work of Your great love. In Your Name, Jesus, we ask it, and for Your glory. Amen.