

Then Feed My Sheep

By Samantha Hicks

I've been asked many times if I love God, and my immediate answer is, "Of course I do." But, what I want to ask you is this. What would your answer be, if God asked you personally, "Do you love Me?"

This isn't a question I want you to answer to me, I just want you to think about what your answer would be if He asked you today, "Do you love me my Child?" Myself, I would answer the same as above, "Of course I do."

But, what if His next question for you is this, "Then why don't you feed His sheep?"

Jesus asked the same question of Simon Peter, in John 21:15-17, "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

This question has been impressed upon me as of late, and it's almost become overwhelming. I answer the same, "Yes, I love you, you know I do. I always have, and always will." And then He questions me, "What are you doing to show me that you really love Me?"

The word "love" is mentioned 310 times in the KJV of the bible, 131 times in the Old Testament and 179 times in the New Testament. The Bible is a book filled with love, and many of us don't know or understand the depth of the Father and His Son Jesus' love for each one of us. It's a love that lead to the Ultimate Sacrifice. A sacrifice that set us free from the bondage of sin. Yet, we often disregard what that sacrifice of true love did for us. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:16

A great love that saved us, and yet, what do we do with it?

To be honest, in the past 25 years I've been alive, I know I could have done more. I was given and shown many opportunities that I was too scared to follow through with or even commit myself to, because fear consumed me. Fear I've come to realize, is from Satan. It does not come from God.

Satan wants your fears to build within you, because he knows, if you have fear, it is going to hold you back from doing the will of God. In 1 John 4:18 it says this about fear, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

So, this brings us back to the question God is asking, "What are you doing to show me that you really love me?"

This is a very humbling question that has me questioning my life's choices. I can't say that I'm doing nothing, but I also can't say I'm doing everything I should be.

When we are called, baptized, and hands are laid on us to receive the Holy Spirit, we are being called to do His will and not our own any longer, and He blesses us per His will. "

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." 1 John 5:13-15

There is a balance we should have, when we are in a relationship with the Lord, and we must figure that balance out. Every day we should be working hard on growing our relationship with the Lord, growing in knowledge and understanding of His will for us. We should especially be growing and perfecting our love of Him. Learn to love without fear, but also understand what it means to fear the Lord God. This fear, is a fear of reverence and deep respect, submission, obedience and awe. It is not the fear that Satan tries to put within us.

So how do we perfect His love and learn to live a life without fear of what God is calling us to do per His will? In 1 John 4:13-17 it says, "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."

We are to be bold, not cowering in fear, while we are in this world. We are to set examples, spread the Word of God with love and faith, believing that what you speak to others about Jesus will be planted within their heart. You may not be the one to bring them to a budding relationship with the Lord, but what you do will make a difference.

I think about Acts 4: 29-33, as it is an incredible example of the boldness we should all have. "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all."

Fear will always try to present itself when we are going boldly out into the world, with Love, but you must cast it aside. Every day will have its own trials, but you must become strong, and put those trials in the hands of God, doing what you can as you boldly go forth spreading the good news of the Coming King, the Lord Jesus.

So, when God asks you, "Do you love Me?" you can say, "Yes I do." With confidence that His reply will be, "I love you too, my good and faithful servant."