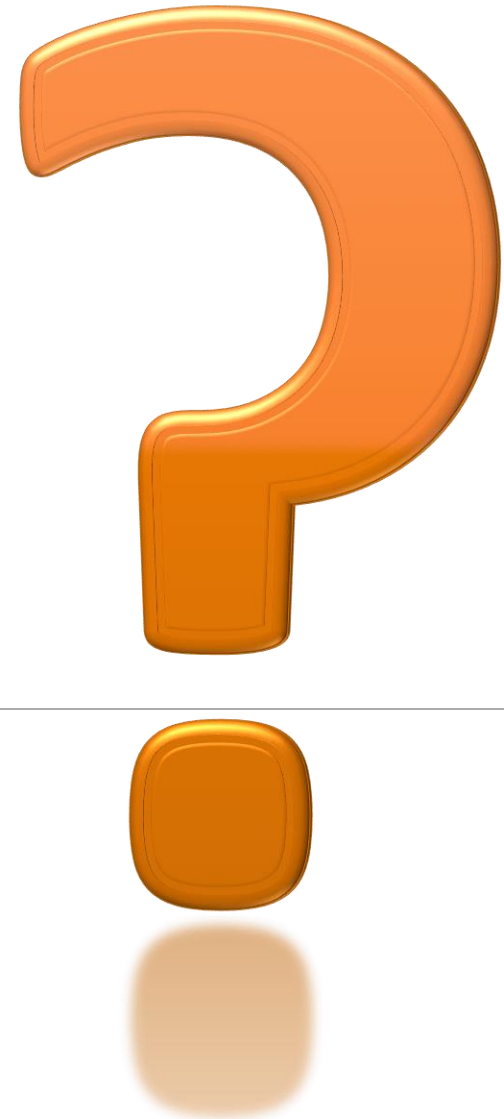


Questions Concerning Spiritual Growth

PART 4



Is your love
increasing?



1 John 4:7-11

Knowing love
begins with
knowing God

God teaches us...



Love is a required of Christians because **God is love** – 4:7-8

- True love originates in God – 4:7; 3:16-19
- Those who do not love, do not know God – 4:8

True love is manifested in God's actions – 4:9-10

- God's love is not sentimentality, but love manifested in action – 4:9
- God's acted to show love for the unlovable – 4:10

This selfless, sacrificial love is the love expected of God's people –
4:11; 3:10; Jn. 13:35

Is your love
toward others
increasing?

The standard by which love is judged



Our love for God is seen in obedience to His will – John 14:15, 21

Our love for our brethren is seen in obedience to His will – 1 John 5:2-3

Love for God and our brethren are so inseparably woven together that both are established by keeping God's commandments.



Are you growing in love for the undeserving?

This is the love God has manifested to us – Rom. 5:8

- This is the love God expects in us – Matt. 5:44-48
- Are you more willing to forgive the faults of others – Matt. 6:14-15

Are you more sympathetic to the needs of others?

- Other's needs are to be put before our own – Phil. 2:3-4
- Our society leads us away from God's will
- Much of our depression, anger, debt, suicide, and addictions are caused by our selfish, self-absorbed ways



Is the tenacity of your love growing?

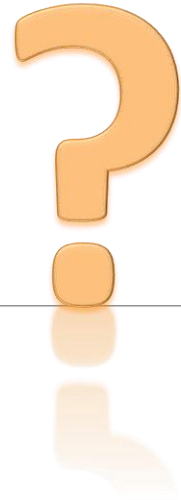
Tenacity – not easily stopped, firm, strong, continuing, determined

True love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...” – 1 Cor. 13:7-8

How does your love compare?

- Are you willing to let your love diminish for those who are “not living up to your standard”?
- Never forget the tenacity of God’s love!
- True love doesn’t give up on the hard cases

Conclusion



Three important things to remember:

- God has taught you to love – 1 Thess. 4:9
- If you love God, you must love your brethren – 1 Jn. 4:20
- If you want to be blameless in holiness, you must love – 1 Thess. 3:12-13

Increase in love!