

## **The Great Big “IF”**

*Scripture reading:* Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Love is my life force. It is a power. Somebody believes that love is passive and just says, “Oh, I love you so much, I can allow you to do anything.” Love is not passive. Love is a force. Love is a power.

What about love and the marriage situation? We marry someone and then we say, “Oh, I don’t love him/her anymore.” Or, “Because this person is so annoying, so nagging, so terrible, and makes my life miserable, I don’t love him/her anymore.” Do you know what you are saying? If I tell you what you are saying, you are not going to believe it. You are saying you don’t love God. That is what you are saying. You don’t love God. Let me tell you: no matter how awful the person is, no matter how horrible the person is, the love of God in you should be crying out, “God, have mercy upon him/her.” Amen.

I know there are cases; I have seen cases where somebody captured somebody else. I am not talking about righteousness. I am talking about sin. The man goes out of his way, sets a trap for a woman, captures her, binds her up, marries her and then, of course, she becomes a prisoner and her life is miserable. God has to intervene to deliver her out of his hand. I have seen that happen.

But I am talking about us, Christians. I never believed that I would live to see divorce in our midst because I believed the love of God would stop any divorce; the love of God in you would stop a divorce. You gave yourself to this person and you both decided to spend life together. There was so much love there at the beginning, but afterwards things got sour and the devil walked in. Your power of love should reach out to that person. Now, if that person was totally against everything that God says, everything that God wants, you couldn’t stop him/her from divorcing you, but that has nothing to do with the love of God that is in you which should never turn to hate. It should never, ever, ever turn to hate. Do you understand what I am saying? There is an unseen power beyond what we can conceive within us and that power lies in our capacity to love. If you have a loved one and the loved one is sick or hurt or dying, by that power of love you will be able to command the deliverance for that person and he/she cannot die. Unless it is God’s will that that person should be taken home.

One time, I had an experience with my niece. She was maybe the second convert in my family, the second one that was saved in my family. She was so calm; she was such a peaceful person. Unlike my sister, her mother, who was full of life and words and everything else. I have never heard her raise her voice; she was what I call a good Christian. She had a lump in her breast and felt that she should go to the doctor. So she went. The doctor operated on it and the thing scattered all over her body. Within a month her body was full of cancer. I went to God and said, “God, save Joan.” When I asked God to save her, I felt that Joan was saved, delivered from this. But she got worse and worse and worse. The doctor said, “She can’t live to see the morning.” I said, “Doctor, you are wrong. God is going to save her.” I was in denial. I really believed God was going to save her. They called me at 5:00 a.m. and said that she had died. The most I could say was, “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord. This is God’s will.” But I remembered 5 years prior to that; I was woken up by God one morning very early. God gave me an urgent message to tell Joan that she must immediately quit the job she was in. She was the head nurse in some hospital. It was too much of a pressure on her and God said she should quit right away. So I rushed down to Ft. Lauderdale where she lived, called her and her husband, and told her she must quit right away. God Almighty said she must quit right away. She said, “But then, I have bills to pay and then I have...” Listen, brethren, if you love God, you are going to do what God says to do, and it is God’s responsibility to pay your bills! I don’t know how to further express it.

Sometimes you come to the meeting and a strong word of prophecy goes out to you. When you hear the word, something happens in your heart. Don't forget it! Don't forget it! It was the Word of God to you. But sometimes, after we get the Word of God, we argue. We calculate it out and argue it out and say, "Well, you know, maybe I have to do this and maybe I have to do that." And then, at that moment, you take a turn. I guarantee you that my niece would be alive today; but there is that big "*if*." "If you will hear My voice and if you will do what I say to you, then your life will be prolonged for many days. If not, then I will take you home and you will be just as happy in heaven."

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*Thought for today:* There is an "*if*" that is on top of all of us. That great big "*if*." And God said the key is the love of God.