

RUSSELL SANDERS

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TO GIVE AND BE GIVEN – LESSON 13

AGAPE AND AGAPAO “GOD LOVE”

A gift of God that every person will “be given” is God’s divine love placed within each person who accepts His love gift of Jesus as their Lord.

John 3:16 and Romans 5:8 tell us that God’s love for us is why He sent His only begotten Son to save us. But He goes beyond that to actually give to us that same kind of love imparted into us.

The New Testament Greek word used here is “agape.” It is a divine love not found in man’s concept of love. Call it a “God love.” The other Greek words for “love” are “eros” which is a physical love and “phileo” which is “brotherly love” or the type of camaraderie that we have with other people. “Agape” is a different love for all people, even for the unlovely or the hateful or evil ones.

His gift of love placed within us by the Holy Spirit is written in Romans 5:5 where it says, **“...The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts (spirits) by the Holy Ghost...”**. It is His gift given to us in our spirit (heart) and only comes from Him. It is not natural to mankind.

The fourth chapter of I John gives the best explanation of “agape.” I John 4:7 says, **“...let us love (agapao) one another, for love (agape) is of God, and everyone that loveth (agapao) is born of God and knoweth God.”** “Agape” is the essence of the love, while “agapao” is the manifestation (action) of that love.

Verse I John 4 verses 8 and 16 both say, **“God is love.”** He not only has love for us, but He is the very essence Himself of pure love.

I John 4:12 says, **“... If we love (agapao) one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love (agape) is perfected in us.”**

Read the entire passage of I John 4:7-21 to get a good grasp of the gift you were “given” from God.