

A member of St Philip's remembers how they were led to meditate on love...

I was praying in tongues one night (when everything is still) and translating back what I said, and at one point it was that Father said to me, "You need to learn more about love".

So the next day I got five translations of where it describes love in the Bible, and produced a hybrid translation to fully get into the definition.

Jesus tells us to love one another as He has loved us, so we need to be latching onto that love of His that He has put inside us when we make Him our Lord and Saviour.

If we fail to display all of the characteristics, someone could say to us, "You're a faulty Christian", similar to how if I buy something from the shop and it doesn't do everything it says it should do in the user manual, I can take it back as being faulty.

Another way of looking at it is like when we buy a gadget and we're reading everything it can do, we're amazed that it can do this, and also that, and even this ! Wow !

So it is with tuning into Jesus' love in us. We don't strive to live up to other people's expectations of what we should be like, but rather relax and just allow His love to change us. This is what I found happened to me as I read through the passage below every day, over a period of months.

Similarly, as we read through the list of what this love that is in us is like, and how it changes us from the inside out, we can say, "Wow, I am becoming so patient, and so kind,... and so not selfish, and so not touchy or resentful,... and so hopeful ! I never knew I could be all this !"

So I've learnt to hand over the responsibility of being loving into Jesus' hands, as I listen to Him and follow His leading. I say, "Daddy, Jesus, Spirit, I don't try to love You with all my heart and soul and mind and strength, I just get out of the way and allow Your love in me to flow out from me, so that I love as You love."

So anyway, here's what I go through every day...

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV / Amplified / Wuest / Young / Worrell)

Daddy, Jesus, Spirit, Your love in me is patient under trials and endures long, meekly and patiently bearing ill treatment from others, she is long-suffering.

Your love in me is kind to everyone and gentle and benevolent, she pervading and penetrating my whole nature, mellowing all which would have been harsh and austere.

Your love in me is not envious and never boils over with jealousy, nor is she disturbed at the prosperity of others.

Your love in me does not boast or brag and is not overly vain, nor does she display herself haughtily nor show herself off, nor parade her own excellence.

Your love in me is not proud or conceited or arrogant and does not have an inflated ego, and she is not puffed up or inflated with high notions of herself.

Your love in me is not rude or unmannerly and she does not act unbecomingly or inappropriately.

Your love in me is not self-seeking and does not insist on her own rights or her own way, nor does she seek after the things which are her own, not only not grasping for more but not holding on with a tight grip to that which is really hers.

Your love in me is not easily angered and is not touchy or fretful or resentful or irritated or provoked or exasperated or aroused to anger, nor thrown off her balance.

Your love in me keeps no record of wrongs and pays no attention to the evil done to her, not taking into account or making note of the evil which she suffers, not attributing evil to others.

Your love in me does not delight in evil and she does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness and iniquity, taking no part in anything wrong.

Your love in me rejoices with the truth and when right prevails, truth and love being inseparable companions.

Your love in me always protects and bears up under anything and everything, enduring all things, all trials of every kind.

Your love in me always trusts and is ever ready to believe the best of every person, believing all things, all Your words and promises, never doubting Your providence.

Your love in me always hopes, her hopes fadeless under all circumstances, hoping all things.

Your love in me always perseveres and endures everything without weakening, bearing up under all things, not losing heart or courage.

Your love in me never fails nor fades out nor becomes obsolete nor comes to an end.