

# Sunshine and Moisture of Love

#0032

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—June 23, 1979

Well, it's nice to be back at Tiftonia again. Last Sabbath, we were at New England, Sabbath before at Fort Payne, and the Sabbath before at the Alabama Mississippi Camp Meeting. I know we're here this morning by God's appointment.

I have some precious things to share with you from John's gospel. John was the disciple that Jesus loved, the Bible says. Not that Christ really loved him more than He did anybody else, but John opened his heart more, so he got more.

If they were giving away grape juice out here someplace and each one of us would bring a quart, we could each get a quart. But if somebody brought a two-quart jar, he could have twice as much, couldn't he? So, since our Savior is infinite in what He has to give us, the amount we *get* is only a matter of our capacity and opening our hearts to receive it.

This is garden time, spring and summer. There are various things that are necessary to produce gardens, but there are two that are absolutely essential. One is light and the other is moisture. Would you agree with me?

You remember the Bible says that Jesus causes:

“...His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” Matthew 5:45.

The light of the sun and the moisture from the clouds, these are two things that are essential. Now, Christ uses these as symbols of the blessings that He has to give us.

Let's look at John the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 12<sup>th</sup> verse. What symbol is used here? Light. Christ pointed to the sun, as He spoke these words, *Desire of Ages* says.

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the *light* of the world...” John 8:12.

As the sun illumines the entire planet as the earth turns toward it, so Jesus is seeking to reveal Himself to every human being. And what sunshine is to plant and animal life, Christ is to our spiritual life. As we open the windows of the soul heavenward, the light of His love flows in.

Now, let's look at the seventh chapter (just the chapter before), and notice the other blessing of moisture, or water, John 7:37:

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of *living water*” John 7:37–38.

The sun is the light of life, and here we have living waters, light that brings life, water that brings life. And if we receive Jesus, this says, we will not only be receiving this living water, but we become sources to impart it to others. God intends that every one of His children shall be a channel *from* which and *through* which the living waters of life and love shall flow.

“He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water” John 7:38.

I want that water, don't you? I want that sunshine. It's interesting how in the garden we need both of these and we need them in balance. A friend of mine points out that all sunshine makes a desert; all rain makes a swamp. But God loves to balance things.

In the Garden of Eden, you remember, moisture was arranged without the rain as we have it today, same water but a better circulatory system. And so, day by day in the Garden of Eden, the plants received the moisture and the sunshine.

Now, let's turn over to Isaiah 61 the 11<sup>th</sup> verse, and notice the application of this in our lives:

“For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations” Isaiah 61:11.

God is growing character in our lives, as we grow vegetables in the garden, same process. And what sunshine and water are to the plants, Christ through His Spirit is to us spiritually.

Now, let's look a little closer at this, in 1 John the fourth chapter and the eighth verse. To receive Jesus is to receive His character. There are many things we might say about the character of Christ: that He's righteous, that He's truth, justice. But the apostle sums it up in one word here:

“...God is...” 1 John 4:8.

What?

“...God is love” 1 John 4:8.

Love is like the sunlight, and sunlight, as you know, includes all the different colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet. All in the sunlight? That sunshine

that's shining out there, does it have all those colors? Yes. A prism enables us to see them.

And so it is in the character of God:

“...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance...”  
Galatians 5:22–23.

The sum total of all His attributes is His love. His justice is included in His love. His mercy is included in His love. His strictness is included in His love. His tenderness is included in His love. His disposition to enforce the law is included in His love. His disposition to pardon everyone who will come to Him, this is all included in His love. Love comprehends, includes, embraces *all* that God is.

And so, when we think of the sunshine of God's love shining into the gardens of our hearts, we want that view of His love. We don't want a partial, filtered sunlight. We want the whole spectrum of justice and mercy, strictness and tenderness.

Now, the same with the water, the water, the moisture, that's essential. And this, we read there in John the seventh chapter is to flow not only to us but through us, from us. And you remember there in the next verse in John 7, it says:

“...This spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive...” John 7:39.

Turn now to Romans the fifth chapter and the fifth verse. What is the result of receiving the Spirit, this water of life in our hearts? What is it? What? That's right.

“...Because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” Romans 5:5.

Then, when the Holy Spirit is received into our hearts, when this water of life comes into the garden of our souls, the result is what? What's shed abroad in our hearts? Love, love. We receive God's love and this is revealed and reflected as we love others.

Let's go back, now to 1 John the fourth chapter verses seven and eight. Will you read these two verses with me. All together:

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love” 1 John 4:7–8.

Notice, our knowing God is dependent not only on our seeing Him as love, but loving one another. We know love only as we experience the giving of it as well as the receiving of it.

Now, that little one that our young mother here has in her arms, it's on the receiving end of love, but it will never know what love is really all about until it starts doing what? Loving back, loving back. Can't do very much of that right now but it will, it will.

And the father and mother both are going to be real happy some day when the little one is old enough to say, "I love you."

Right? In the meantime, they're doing the loving, and that's all right. That's the way to begin. But each one of us knows love, I repeat, only as we give it, as well as receive it. We're to impart it and it's in imparting that we understand it better.

Now, what sunshine and moisture are to the garden, we've studied, so Christ and His love are to our lives. In the book *Ministry of Healing*, page 360, I read:

"Love cannot long exist without expression"  
*Ministry of Healing*, page 360.

"Love cannot long exist without expression" *Ibid.*

How do we express love? Well, by words, by looks, by actions.

We can say to someone, "I love you."

We can *show* it in a smile of recognition, appreciation, and we can show it by acts of kindness. All of these are methods by which we express love.

This is the sunshine that shines upon the darkness, and God wants each one of us to reflect the light of the Sun of righteousness. Or changing the figure, He wants each one of us to be fountains of living water, the Holy Spirit pouring through our hearts and lives the rich currents of love.

On this same page, I read:

"There are many who regard the expression of love as a weakness, and they maintain a reserve that repels others. This spirit checks the current of sympathy. As the social and generous impulses are repressed, they wither, and the heart becomes desolate and cold. We should beware of this error. Love cannot long exist without expression. Let not the heart of one connected with you starve for the want of kindness and sympathy" *Ibid.*

You know, we're in a strange time. Paul, looking down to our time, said:

"...In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be..." 2 Timothy 3:1-2.

What?

“...lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection...” 2 Timothy 3:2–3.

Some of you have noticed reports of the increasing tragedies of children actually abused, misused, tortured, or left without care. Just the other day, I was noting about an experience (I’ve forgotten where it was; I think it was right here in Chattanooga, if I remember right) where the woman that was collecting the parking money, you know, from the meters, she saw some little children, just little ones, just running down the street and playing, didn’t have any clothes on. Somebody had left them in a parked car and the children got out of the car and there they were playing in the traffic.

Well, took some time to get the father, find the father. Police laid a charge against him of negligence in taking care of his children, just went off and left them in a parked car, a locked car. But there are far worse things than that happening. That’s just neglect. There’s actual abuse. Where does it start? Well, it starts, my dear friends, with the lack of Jesus in the heart.

There used to be a time when natural affection would cause parents to care for their children, whether they were Christians or not, but as the Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth, the only guarantee in any life of being loving is to have the loving Savior in our hearts. That’s the only way.

But He works according to certain principles, and one of these principles, as this says, is that:

“Love cannot long exist without expression” *Ministry of Healing*, page 360.

God intends that every child shall grow up in a home where the parents are revealing love every day, revealing love every day. God intends that that shall be a lifelong habit with every one of us, to express love.

Now, today of course, most (if you just take the population as a whole, the millions of people that make up the inhabitants of this continent), most of what is called lovemaking that’s done is done during the teens and twenties, teens and twenties. Little children don’t know too much of it and adults, they’ve become cynical, disillusioned, burnt out.

God intended that love should be a lifelong experience, a lifelong experience, and part of the reform that this message is designed to bring relates not just to diet, or dress, or education, or Sabbath-keeping. It relates to this matter of the character of Jesus revealed in and to and through His children, the character of love.

“Well,” somebody says, “Brother Frazee, this is all right, but I just wasn’t brought up that way and it doesn’t come natural for me.”

Well, I want to ask you something, friends. Are there people that have been brought up on a meat diet and it doesn't come natural for them to eat fruits and vegetables? Are there? Why, certainly.

What do we say to a person like that?

Do we say, "Well, too bad, friend. If you've eaten meat all your life, then I guess you'll have to keep it up because that's your habit."

Or do we show them something better? Does the fact (don't miss this), does the fact that I have eaten meat for 40 years, does it mean that I have to keep on doing that all the rest of my life? Can I change? Is Jesus willing to change me? Will it take some cooperation on my part? Yes. Can it be the same in this matter of love and its expression? Yes.

Let me read here from *Volume 3*, page 539. This is a wonderful statement:

"The reason there are so many hardhearted men and women in our world is that true affection has been regarded as weakness and has been discouraged and repressed. The better part of the nature of persons of this class was perverted and dwarfed in childhood, and unless rays of divine light can melt away their coldness and hardhearted selfishness, the happiness of such is buried forever" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3*, page 539.

But notice the encouraging thought that:

"... Rays of divine light can melt away their coldness and hardhearted selfishness..." *Ibid.*

Isn't that a precious promise? Yes. You know, you can take a block of ice here and you can hit it with a hammer and pieces may chip off, but there's still pieces of ice, little pieces instead of big pieces. But oh, just let the sun shine upon that block of ice. What'll happen? It'll begin to melt, melt. Those warm rays will melt the biggest block of ice if they're just given an opportunity.

And so:

"...The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" Romans 5:5.

You know, dear friends, there are some things that God wants us to enjoy in this world that we're going to enjoy in heaven. Now, we can't have space trips here in this life, can we? We can't go to Orion, or most of us can't even get to the moon. It's all right. We'll have ample opportunity. There are a great many other things that God has waiting for us. But there's *something* that belongs to heaven and the joy of heaven that God wants us to have right here.

Notice, on this same page:

“Home should be made all that the word implies. It should be a little heaven upon earth...” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3*, page 539.

What is home to be?

“...A little heaven upon earth...” *Ibid.*

The next part of the sentence says:

“...a place where the affections are cultivated instead of being studiously repressed” *Ibid.*

So, dear ones, God wants us to cultivate this expression of love toward those to whom we have a duty of love. The fact that it's a duty shouldn't rob us of the pleasure and joy of it, not at all. God intends that the light that shines out shall shine the brightest in the home.

Wouldn't it be a strange thing to come up and see a light shining out a window at night and you say, “My, that's a bright light.”

And you get in the house and there's no light; it's dark. Wouldn't that be a strange thing?

God intends that the closer we get into the center of the home, the brighter the light shall shine. And if it's real love, it *will*, friends. If it's real love, it will.

Many of these expressions of love are just in small things, just little courtesies. The real spring, back of it all, is a desire to please. You see, if I love somebody, I'm interested in finding out what pleases them. That's why we're interested in finding out what pleases Jesus, isn't it, because we love Him?

If I love some human being, then I'm interested in finding out what pleases them and to do or say those things that will please them.

“It is the little attentions, the numerous small incidents and simple courtesies of life, that make up the sum of life's happiness...” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2*, page 133.

Oh friends, I pray that every one of us may have more of this sunshine of God's love and more of the moisture of the Spirit of God, the living water, that refreshes the withering plants.

“...The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” Romans 5:5.

You see, this matter of love is the thing that makes heaven a happy place and will make this world a happy place, and unless we enter into it here we would be strangers there.

May we bow our heads?

Precious Lord, we thank Thee for this season of study and meditation this morning concerning the sunshine of Thy love, the water of life. And we pray that each of us shall open our hearts to these rays of glory and these rivers of love. Teach us how to let Thee reveal Thyself *to* us and *through* us. We ask it for Christ's sake, amen.

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W. D. Frazee Sermons  
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757  
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755  
[www.WDFsermons.org](http://www.WDFsermons.org)  
[support@WDFsermons.org](mailto:support@WDFsermons.org)