

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

Week 7 – Friday

Eph. 3:16-17 – Footnotes 16¹, 17¹, 17², 17⁴

Sometimes we call Ephesians 3:16-17 the heart of the heart of the heart of the divine revelation. Those verses are a prayer that the Father would grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man that Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith that you, being rooted and grounded in love.... I don't know exactly when it was, but a number of years ago I was inspired in a conference meeting, maybe a semi-annual training, and from that time, these verses have become my prayer every day of my life, especially in the morning. I was about 16 or 17 and I have been praying these two verses day after day: “Lord, please make more of Your home in my heart today, even a little bit more.” Then this day counts. If by the time my head hits the pillow the Lord has made His home in my heart just a little bit more, that was a good day; that day counts.

Some may not have heard why we call these verses the heart of the heart of the heart of the divine revelation? We consider that the heart of the divine revelation is really found in the books Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. These four books unveil the church in a very particular way. But of all these, Ephesians is the heart; and then of Ephesians, these verses are the heart. They are the personal experience of Christ making His home in our heart. That is how Christ builds the church. By building Himself into you a little bit more every day, and into me a little bit more every day, and then we come together and there is more building of the church. But do you realize that faith and love are here? This is my point in bringing this out. Christ is making His home in our hearts through *faith* that you being rooted and grounded in *love*. Even in these most critical verses are faith and love.

We are talking about the divine romance and the spiritual warfare. Even though in a sense we are going to focus on the spiritual warfare today by covering the armour of God, our focus should be the divine romance. Our focus should be on the Lord Himself, on building up that sweet, intimate relationship with Him. Of course, as we do that the enemy will come, but the goal is to enter into this fellowship with the Lord. For this, we need love with faith. Our love for the Lord depends on the health of our faith. Hebrews says that Christ is the author and perfecter of our faith (12:2). Verse 1 of that chapter gives the picture of a race. How can you have the endurance to run this Christian race under so much adversity? You need to look away unto Jesus. What does it mean to look away unto Jesus? What does it mean to look at Jesus? We don't see Jesus physically. Actually, this is talking about faith; faith sees the unseen things. We need to be healthy in our faith. When we have faith, we will have love. If your faith is attacked or weakened, it is possible that your love for the Lord wanes and you can't do anything about it. We need to get our faith renewed and this is my burden in this message: the shield of faith.