

DEEPER TEACHINGS
(MEAT OF THE WORD)

#49

TODAY I AM A MAN

By Sam Fife



According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 3:10

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Our Scripture is 1 Corinthians 13:11. The eleventh verse comes, of course, after all those tremendous verses where the Apostle Paul contrasts love with gifts:

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

There was a time when I rebelled against this idea of contrasting love with gifts of the Spirit because gifts of the Spirit had just begun to come forth in me. Gifts of the Spirit were wonderful to me, and they're still wonderful to me.

I was coming out of a Baptist denomination that tried to do that, contrast love with gifts, and in doing so sought to convince themselves that they could jump over gifts, and walk over gifts, and attain to love without gifts.

Because I knew that the love Paul speaks of here could only be attained through the gifts, I didn't like too much the idea of contrasting one of God's good things with another, contrasting love with gifts, because I did not have a full understanding of the contrast that the Apostle Paul himself was making in this Scripture.

In fact I know now that at that time only Paul himself really understood what he was talking about here and understood the contrast that he was making here.

I believe that up until this hour and in this move of God no one has ever yet fully understood the contrast that Paul was making here between love and gifts; because they hadn't, up until now, arrived at the point where Paul himself had arrived when he said, "Brethren, gifts are wonderful but I show unto you a more perfect way."

Then he began to enumerate the virtues of love: love vaunteth not itself; love is not puffed up; love rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the Truth; beareth all things, believeth all things; hopeth all things; endureth all things. Do you think you have attained to that love?

I don't know that I think I have, but as God has given me understanding of what he was saying, my heart has been challenged with the Truth that God has given me that I am about to share with you: challenged so much and so greatly to make this Truth that God has given me my own, that I am sure you might think I'm boasting a little as I teach this Truth to you, and if it appears that I have become a fool in boasting, then you'll forgive me. But you see, the reason Paul could make this contrast between gifts and love was because he had attained to the kind of love he describes here. He knew what he was talking about!

Up until now we have not known what he was talking about, simply because we have not attained to the kind of love that endureth all things. I'm not giving a message on love, I'm giving a message on the beauty of Manhood. Because in a recent convention, suddenly one morning God spoke a Word to me that He had never spoken before. He said, "Sam, if you really want to understand 1Corinthians 13, you substitute the word God, for the word love that Paul uses here: every word in every verse."

For the Bible clearly says, "God is love, and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God." And so we could use the word love or God, in every verse of 1 Corinthians 13. Love beareth all things; God beareth all things. Love rejoiceth not in iniquity; God rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the Truth.

I believe I am coming into the deepest union with God that I have ever come to and that any other man on this earth, saving this Apostle who wrote these verses, has ever come to: simply because at last I understand what Paul is saying here. And you have to come into the same kind of union with God that Paul was walking in, in order to understand what Paul is saying.

Paul could contrast love with gifts because through gifts he had attained to the kind of love that he is talking about here, so that he understood what he was talking about and could say it to us and define love for us. And at the

close of it all he said in verse 11, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a Man," notice what Paul said, past tense.

He knew that he knew in his heart, that he had arrived at Manhood.

When I became a Man then I put away childish things. Now he had just been talking about gifts, so certainly the childish things that he speaks of here when he says, "When I became a man, I put away childish things," refer to the gifts of the Spirit that have been so important to us; and I'm sure had been so important to him, up until then.

But you see, at last this old Apostle, having been in the garbage heap at Derby and in Lystra, having suffered humiliation in the Philipian jail: at last he had become a Man! And when he said this,

"When I become a man," he knew what he was talking about: because he had come to an understanding and a definition of what a Man is.

Most people who think they are men today, and are not, don't understand what a man is. Most pants-wearers in this world today and in the church today, including myself, until God began to speak these Truths to me, who think they are a full-grown man, are but a child. Some of them are not even that. The lost ones are not even that, they are beasts. They haven't even gotten into the man realm yet. And those who are regenerated, and most of them who think they are men don't have the slightest idea what Paul is talking about here, because they are not men.

I don't care if they are six feet tall and weigh 250 pounds; or perhaps six feet tall in the Spirit and can speak in tongues and prophesy beautifully, pray down miracles and have a tent, and preach to ten thousand people every night. They don't have the slightest idea of what Paul is talking about here when he says, "When I became a man I put away childish things," referring to the gifts of the Spirit. Because they have no understanding of the definition of a Man, as he did when he spoke here. But because he was able to define

Manhood , full-grown Manhood, and because he had attained to Manhood, he could define love for you in this chapter of Scripture. Love vaunteth not itself. Love rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the Truth. Love speaketh no evil. Love beareth all things. Love endureth all things. Because he had attained to Manhood, he understood love and he could define love for you; and in doing so, define God for you.

As the Spirit of God began to give me His understanding of His own statements, during that convention recently, and I began to measure my vision and my calling, and my commitment to that calling, I suddenly realized that in that convention I had grown up. I suddenly realized that in that convention in which the theme had been "the family of God," I had attained to Manhood. I suddenly realized, today I am become a Man. And I believe with all of my heart I can say with the Apostle Paul, "When I became a Man (past tense), I put away childish things.

There have been many points in my life in times past that I thought I had become a man, simply because I didn't understand the definition of what a man is. I can remember when I was 17 years old, and because I was 17 years old and had attained to a certain height, and the muscles in my arms had attained to a certain hardness, roundness, and strength, I had reached that point where most 17 year olds are when they think they know everything about everything.

Therefore, in spite of my mother's counsel, my father's counsel, and all their pleadings, I went down and volunteered to join the United States Navy to go forth and fight for my country. Hearing the sound of the trumpets and the brass instruments of Babylon blowing, deceiving me, propagandizing me, telling me how I was going to save my country and my family and mankind by picking up a gun going off and killing other fellow human beings, and devouring my own kind, I went forth in all my stupid, idiotic, childish glory to become a hero and fight the war. And I thought I was a man!

In fact, I so much thought I was a man that my first three weeks out of boot camp when I was sent to my first day's duty at work, a petty officer wearing dungarees like I did, who I didn't know was a petty officer decided to have a little horseplay with me and began joking with another fellow. He went over and whispered in the other fellow's ear and looked at me, and I could tell he was having horseplay with me. He then came over and commanded me to pick up a bunch of coke bottles that were on the ground and go put them away. I quickly puffed up in all my young Irish manhood and told him, "If you want them picked up, pick them up yourself." Then he cursed at me and I picked up one of the coke bottles and went for him. Two days later I found myself in the brig on bread and water, in solitary confinement for five days: because I very foolishly thought I was a man!

Or I can remember that hour in my life when several young women passed by, and I swelled my muscles and preened myself, and presented myself to them as the candidate for their attention and affection, because I thought I was a man.

Or I can remember that hour in my life when I met my wife, Lee, and I began to present to her all my manly virtues, so-called, as a good reason why she should place her life in my hands, because I idiotically, stupidly, childishly, thought I was a man! I can remember all the years that I have been convinced that I was a man, and have sought to convince her, and wondered why she didn't seem so convinced sometimes, because I thought I was a man.

Now, because I have discovered that I had no true definition of manhood; now, because I have suddenly discovered I didn't know what a man was, I understand why she didn't jump up and down and click her heels together and seem so terribly impressed with my manhood when I was seeking to impress her, simply because I wasn't a man.

But I believe with all my heart that in that convention, the theme having been, "the family of God," and having

come line upon line and precept upon precept through a true revelation of what a Man is, and having measured my calling from God and my commitment to it against that standard, I believe that in that convention, I grew up.

I believe that today I'm become a Man and the reason I believe I'm become a Man is because like Paul, I have searched my heart, I have measured my vision against God's definition of a Man, I have measured my own commitment to that vision and from henceforth I decided to put away childish things.

My heart is challenged by the very Truth that is boiling within me, that God has shown me, that I am seeking to share with you now; and I hope God gives me the words to share with you the beauty of Manhood that God has given to me. No people up until this move of God and perhaps up until this hour when I am giving this Truth to you, have ever seen the beauty, the supreme, exquisite (I wish I had the words to describe what I see by Revelation) beauty of Manhood, according to God's definition of it. I began to get a glimpse of it when God began to show me the revelation of the "mystery of a man and a maid." I began to get a deeper glimpse of it as God began to show me the glorious Truths in the eleventh chapter of 1 Corinthians, which I ministered in performing the marriage ceremony of a couple, when Paul said simply "for the man is not of the woman; but the woman is of the man ... even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God."

I began to get a glimpse of the beauty of Manhood when God began to give me understanding of Paul's statement, "But I would have you to know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the, head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." I saw that in God's total creation and in His total Divine plan for creating new Life there are four levels of Life: Woman, Man, Christ and God. I began to get a glimpse of the definition of a true Man and the beauty of Manhood, when I realized that when Paul said the man is not of the woman but the woman is of the man,

that he could say it because he understood and had a clear revelation of what happened long ago, when God brought forth Adam and then brought Eve out of his side.

He understood as he said "the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man" that Eve, the woman, did not come out of God, she came out of Adam, but the man came out of God. Therefore the man alone was of God, and the woman was of the man; and the manchild that was to be born of their union, which was to be a projection of the man's life, and through him God's life, into this world, was by the woman, and therefore she was the channel through which the life of the man, which was the Life of God, was shown forth into the world.

As I began to see that the woman is the channel through which the life of this Man, which is the Life of God, shall show forth into this world, I at last began to see the beauty of a woman. I know what a woman is: I know her purpose, I know her function, I know what she is here for. And because I know, sisters, I am going to tell you something: from here on out, this preacher-boy shall honor you, shall respect you, shall seek to be used of God through the Truth to exalt you to that high position that God set you in when He brought you forth in this earth. And I shall pray that God shall give you the maturity and the wisdom and the humility to let God lift you back up to that exalted position from the low, low place that Babylon has dragged you down into. When you do, your skirts will come down to your knees and stay there forever. Your hairdos will become simple and moderate. Your makeup will become simple and moderate. Your adornment will not just be that outward adornment, but it will be that inner adornment that God intended for all men to see in you when He brought you forth in the beginning.

This preacher has suddenly gotten an understanding of the beauty of womanhood. And because I have, I shall pray that when my gaze falls upon you the thoughts of my mind and heart shall be as pure as the purest River of Living water. Not only have I gotten the vision of the beauty of

womanhood as I have suddenly come to understand, by revelation, that that man Adam that came out of God long ago was to be the expression of all that is God, that is listed here: love (God) is longsuffering, love (God) vaunteth not itself, love (God) is not puffed up, love (God) rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, love (God) beareth all things, love (God) believeth all things, love (God) endureth all things. But I have come to understand what a man this Adam was, he who was to be the expression of all this. My heart weeps for him when I realize that he failed. But my heart rejoices for me when I know that I know that I know that I am not going to fail to fulfill that calling. I have begun to get an understanding of the beauty of Manhood as I have heard God say, the Man is not of the Woman, but the Woman is of the Man; and the Man is of God; and the Manchild is by the Woman: but all things are of God.

I have begun to understand that this Man that God has made in His image--and I am that Man, that through that recreation by which I have been brought into that second Adam, I have been brought into that same state that that man Genesis speaks of was in before his fall: the image of God. Yea, as the Apostle Paul said, "the express image of His Person and the effulgence of His glory." I have a vision of my calling. Brother, from henceforth I am not just convinced of it, and I am not just convicted of it, but I am committed to it. I have come to know what is required of a Man, what is the calling of a Man, what is the purpose of a Man: He is to be the expression of all God's wisdom, of all God's strength, of all God's compassion, of all God's faith, of all God's power, of all God's endurance, of all God's longsuffering.

Seeing all that, I have come to see the beauty of Manhood, and I have come to see the beauty of who I am, and what I am: and the knowledge has grown me up. The revelation has matured me to the point where I believe with all my heart that I can go forth saying with the Apostle Paul, "When I became a man I put away childish things."

I have not understood fully as I understand now, why, though I still speak in tongues I am not so proud of my ability to speak in tongues as I was fifteen years ago, when as a young Baptist preacher I first started speaking in tongues. I have come to understand now, far better than I ever understood, why it is that though I still prophesy, and sometimes most profoundly under a heavy anointing, that I am neither so excited nor so proud of my gift of prophecy as I was back then. I have come to understand now why I am not so quick to try to cast out devils, even though I still have the anointing and am used of God to cast out devils; and I am not nearly so proud of the ability to do so. I have no desire to demonstrate it anymore, just to do it when it is necessary. Now I am coming to understand why, though I still see visions, I do not expect anybody to look upon me in awe because I have the anointing and the ability to see visions, as I used to. I am coming to understand now why, though I still have the anointing to preach a good revelation once in a while, I could care less whether anybody comes to me after the service and says, "My, Brother Fife, that was a glorious message."

I'm coming to understand because through revelation and vision of the true definition of Manhood - I am becoming a Man and I am ready to put away all of those childish things. I did not say do away with them, I said put away. It is because I am beginning to see the responsibility of Manhood. My God, the responsibility of Manhood!

In order for you to fully understand what I am talking about, you need to understand that God's definition of a Man is not what you see out there in that world that is unregenerated and unborn-again and un recreated - that wears pants and bears a gun on his shoulder and uses machine guns, and sends rocket ships off into space to bounce themselves off that hunk of rock called the moon.

God's definition of a Man is not that. When God first brought Adam forth he was a Spiritual being with a Spiritual nature, that walked and lived in the Spirit 24 hours a day, 7

days a week. That is the definition of a Man. But that is not the definition of a full-grown Man. That is the definition of a baby Man. For in that state he was not what the second Adam was, when He walked out of the carpenter's shop, and walked down to the river Jordan, and as old John the Baptist lowered Him down into the water and raised Him up, God's Holy Dove descended on His head, and the voice of God spoke out of the heavens and proclaimed to all men, "This is my beloved, full-grown, ready to be manifested Son. Hear ye Him." He was not what the second Adam was as He went forth to take a Bride - to lay down His life to purchase that Bride so that in laying down the life that He had, He would rise up into a higher form of Life; so that He would be worthy to enter into a union with that Bride, to bring forth a seed after His own kind.

I have come to understand that the first Adam was not what He was, was not a full-grown Man as He was, and as I soon will be. As you soon will be, if you keep on walking. I am coming to understand that when I have walked out the vision and the calling that I have committed myself to, and have also laid down my life to purchase a Bride, that having resurrected into that higher, incorruptible life, I will be worthy to enter into union with that creation Bride and bring forth the life of God - the incorruptible, immortal, immutable, unchangeable life of God in this earth, and fulfill the purpose for which God has made me a Man, that the life of God might be manifested through me, through my wife and you in this earth.

Oh, listen, dear ones, if you fall back into that childish state that many have fallen into, and ever come to me mouthing that statement, "I am not going to follow a man," you will not put me under condemnation. You will not ever give me an inferiority complex. You will not embarrass me. You will make me have compassion on you. You will make me feel sorry for you, that you do not have the wisdom, nor the understanding, nor the revelation, nor the courage, nor

the faith, nor the desire to follow this man to the incorruptible glory where God has anointed me to take you.

Forgive me if I appear foolish in boasting, I have a revelation and a vision, and I know that I know that I know that I know, simply because I believe I am become a Man. Simply because by revelation and vision I have become fully aware of my responsibilities as a Man. Not only to be the express image of His Person and the fullness of His glory, the effulgence of His glory, but to take a Wife and enter into union with that Wife to bring forth new life in the earth. And what a Wife I am to take. All the essence of Her beauty can only be described by those words in the Song of Songs that no preacher, no theologian, no doctor so-and-so has ever even begun to understand, up until this move of the Spirit of God.

I know how beautiful you are whether you know it or not because I have come to some understanding of those words in the Song of Songs: "How beautiful are thy feet with shoes. I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse. Rise up my dove and come away. For winter is past and summer is here, and the flowers are springing forth in the earth again, and the birds bring forth their singing, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in the land again." You can believe me, dear ones, this preacher-boy knows his responsibility towards you. You can believe me, this preacher-boy knows his calling to honor you, to respect you, to cherish you, to labor for you, to die for you, to house you, to clothe you, to feed you - to take full responsibility before God for your Life, to give you my Name and my Seed, to make you the channel through which the Life that is in me - that is the life of omnipotent, almighty God - shall come forth and fill this world.

There have been very few young men that have ever taken a wife in this world, up until now - until this move of God, until some Ministries in this move of God began preaching the real truth in 1 Corinthians 11 - that have known what it was all about; that have known what they were taking a wife

for; that have known their responsibilities toward that wife; that have seen the beauty of her womanhood (instead of how short her dress was, that too great measure of the flesh, her flesh, that she had demonstrated to them); who have seen that God made her the channel through which his life, and not only his life but the Life of God, could flow forth in this earth for you sisters.

Every little one that you bring forth through your womb, God has ordained that you only bring it to a certain point and then present that Life to Him, that He might translate it to His incorruptible, immortal, eternal life. How many have ever known what it was all about. Sensual, lustful, foolish, childish, sometimes stupid, ignorant, lazy, shiftless, pants-wearing fools; taking God's bride into their hands and seeking sensual thrills, experiences, in the fulfillment of their own weak, fleshy, bestial, crying needs, instead of seeking to fulfill their calling as men to feed her, to clothe her, to house her, to take full responsibility for her life, to give her seed, to bring forth life into the world out of which God can bring forth His incorruptible, immortal Life.

At last I understand what it means to be a man, the purpose of a man, the definition of a man, the calling of a man, the responsibility of a man. Not only a natural man, but now to lift this thing up out of the natural realm and the natural type and bring it where it actually is today: I know what it is to be a Ministry of God. I know what it is to be the One that the Word of God in 1 Corinthians 11 is talking about when it says, "The head of the woman is the man--The Man--the head of the man is Christ, and the head of Christ is God." I know beyond all shadow of doubt today, how beautiful you are in His eyes, all of you. How He honors you. When will you start honoring yourself? How he exalts you. When will you take that exalted place He has reserved for you? How he adores you. When will you yield to His adoration? How He has waited for you. Time to Him has been as nothing, for His great love for you, just as it was to Jacob long ago. How he has endured all things. How He has

suffered all things. How he has borne all things. How He has rejoiced, not in our iniquities, but has continued to rejoice in the truth.

I love you, all of you who are a part of the Bride of Christ, and I know the responsibility of my calling. I know that I am called to feed you with that Eternal Food, to clothe you with that Eternal Clothing, to house you with the Eternal Housing, to cherish you with that Eternal Cherishing, to protect you against your every enemy, to lay down my life to purchase you as my Bride; and then to give you Seed that shall bring forth, through you, into this world, the incorruptible, immortal, eternal life of God.

The reason I believe that I am become a Man is because I have searched my heart, and I find nothing within me that wants to shrink back from that calling. I find no fear within me of my inability to fulfill it. I find nothing within me that says, that is too hard a Word.

I have no desire to turn and grab a ship for Tarshish anymore. But there is something within me, on the contrary, that is ready to reach out and take you by the hand and say, "Come, let us go up to the valley of nuts. Let us see if the pomegranates are budding, and the grapes give a good smell. Let us visit the fields and the villages in our land. Rise up my dove and come away." There is not a doubt within me that I can fulfill my calling to be your Husband, that I am Man enough to do it.

I know how big this Bride is. I have seen Her hundreds in Peru, Her thirties in Japan, her hundreds in Colombia, Her thousands in the United States, and Her fifties in Mexico and in Canada. I know the scope and the range and the calling of the responsibility that I have as a Man, yet there is something within me that cries out from the depths of my being, "Here am I, send me."

I have a vision of my responsibility, the calling, the load I am to carry, the price to be paid, and I have measured my committal to that vision with my revelation, and I have

said yes, yes, yes. Therefore, I believe at last I am become a Man and I am ready to put away childish things.

Oh, no, I do not intend to stop prophesying, I have not gotten so super-spiritual I do not prophesy anymore. I do not intend to stop speaking in tongues or casting out devils. But I do intend to put them back in the place where they belong and take up this higher vision: Love vaunteth not itself, love is not puffed up, love rejoiceth in the truth, love believeth all things, love beareth all things, and this one is my cross and your cross Ministry: love endureth all things.

I have looked it over and my heart still says yes, yes, yes. Therefore I have a pure, absolute, definition of what Manhood is. I have a pure understanding of my calling and I have measured my committal to it. I am not talking about its fulfillment, I do not have to talk about that. All I have to talk about is my committal to it. I have measured my committal to it and therefore I am fully satisfied in my soul that I have become a Man and I have put away childish things.

The reason I can preach this truth with such confidence that I shall not fail is because I know, beyond all shadow of doubt, that I am in The Man, and I intend to stay in The Man to the very end. AMEN.