

Introduction:

- No more room for:
 - taking offense
 - having a critical spirit
- I want to continue in the theme of love today.
- Charles Spurgeon *"Oh! men and brethren, what would this heart feel if I could but believe that there were some among you who would go home and pray for a revival - men whose faith is large enough, and their **love fiery enough** to lead them from this moment to exercise unceasing intercessions that God would appear among us and do wondrous things here, as in the times of former generations."* C.H. Spurgeon.

I. Where Does Love Come From

- A. God! 1Jn 4:8 *"God is love."*
- B. "So where does love come from? It comes from being stunned by being loved by God, right? This love comes from being overwhelmed by the person of Jesus dying on our behalf and rising again, though we have no merit at all in ourselves. When that grips you, then you will taste what it is to treasure Jesus, delight in Jesus, and be satisfied in Jesus." John Piper.
 1. The key is to live in the state of being stunned by the love of God.
 2. Remembering your first love!
- C. The church in Ephesus lost its first love. Rev 2:4
 1. *"But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first."* (Revelation 2:4, ESV)
 2. Revival is return to our first love.
- D. Revival is returning to our first love, Jesus! Revival can only happen among believers, and when it does, it brings the lost to Christ.

II. Hosting the Holy Spirit

- A. When we talk about hosting Holy Spirit we are talking about revival. Remembering your first love stirs revival in your own heart.
- B. What is revival but an open heaven where the Holy Spirit descends. Ie. Your cubicle at work, a stranger in a check out line, the person next to you.
 1. We need Holy Spirit to come. We need an open heaven. Ie. Individually and corporately.
 2. Each of must learn how to be a good host of Holy Spirit.
 - a) Ie. At Freedom we know how to host people but do we know how to host Holy Spirit?
 - b) Ie. Kelly and I often host guest speakers at our home. Much care is taken to do

that. Is everything clean, food purchased and prepped, fruit basket, etc.

c) Are you putting enough 'care' into hosting the Holy Spirit?

C. Three Baptisms:

1. Baptism in water...we open the door by faith to receive what God has given—His Son.
2. Baptized in Holy Spirit....we open the door by faith to receive what God has given—Holy Spirit
 - a) Yes it is an experience but we can always go deeper. Ie. Ezekiel went deeper and deeper into God.
 - b) At some point he says, "And I did swim!" Ezekiel 47:5
3. Baptism of Fire (fire used to consecrate) **Consuming fire of love!**
 - a) In scripture fire was often associated with altars when things were being consecrated.
 - (1) Acts 2 Holy Spirit and fire.
 - (2) Our works are purified by fire. 1 Cor 3:13
 - b) We need a church consecrated by fire.

D. To host Holy Spirit we must honor Him.

1. This means pleasing Him more than people.
2. Jesus said, "You honor each other more than you honor me." *"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?"* (John 5:43-44, NKJV)

E. We can't ignore Holy Spirit. Luke 7:41-44

1. Ie. Simon the pharisee's house. Simon ignored the presence of God.
 - a) Prostitute delivered by Jesus comes and washed Jesus' feet with her hair.
 - b) Jesus tells a parable. *"He who is forgiven much loves much."*
2. Religious people are so critical.
 - a) Religious spirit is rebellious spirit against God. It does not welcome God, it does not welcome Holy Spirit.
 - b) Holy Spirit brings love. Hope does not disappoint because of the love of God. Religion relates from the head but the heart is not loving. Do you see this woman Simon? *"Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair."* (Luke 7:44, ESV)

F. When you host the Holy Spirit make room for testimonies of what the Lord is doing. Promote Jesus.

III. Love Is The Culture of Heaven and it must become our culture here in the House of Freedom.

- A. The Holy Spirit brings the culture of heaven. Love is the culture of heaven, unity, glory compassion.
 - 1. When the culture of the church conflicts with the culture of heaven the church culture must be broken. This is one reason Jesus visited the seven churches.
 - 2. Presence, love, delight in God and delight in each other.
 - 3. Luke 10:38-41 Martha distracted with serving.
 - a) Be careful not to offend Jesus with your serving.
 - b) Mary sat at his feet. Mary hosted Jesus and sat at his feet.
- B. Matthew 22:40 All the law and prophets hang on these two commands.
 - 1. Love God
 - 2. Love each other as you love yourself. How do you love yourself?
 - a) "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12, ESV)
 - 3. Galatians 5:14-15 (ESV): "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.""