

Life-Link

Topic: Faking Warmth, Impossible!

Life- Link Study #40

Introduction

“I’m telling you these things while I’m still living with you. The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you. I’m leaving you well and whole. That’s my parting gift to you. Peace. I don’t leave you the way you’re used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don’t be upset. Don’t be distraught.” (John 14:26, 27 MSG)

There are three things which go together in friendship - love, acceptance and warmth. Whilst it takes a while to know whether the love is real or not, warmth is the part that really reveals whether the relationship is real or merely faking it. Warmth comes from the heart, expressed through emotions, and conveys congruence. Warmth is not what people can show, rather it is what we can feel from them. It is not defined by them, it is expressed in our own terms. Warmth does not say, “I am here, can you feel me?” Also, warmth is a result of an existing interaction, culture or camaraderie.

The presence of the Holy Spirit brings about excellent warmth. That beautiful presence can be felt, so calm, real and very invigorating. Have we ever really explored what brought people to Jesus? Why thousands were always around him (Mtt. 14:13), people thronging him (Mark 5:24), touching his garment (Mtt. 9:20), bowing down in worship to him (Mtt. 15:25), and seeking to follow him (Luke 9:57)? It was the warmth, the presence of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38). He had a presence which brought people to him, and people came to him to rest and be invigorated. That same presence He has given us as a parting gift. This presence (of the Holy Spirit) creates undeniable warmth. We carry the presence of the Holy Spirit, and others feel the warmth. This warmth is refreshing, soothing and healing.

Q1: How can we generate a warmth that expresses genuine love which others can feel and connect with?

Read: Luke 1:35 (In conception), Acts 10:38 (In work), Romans 8:11 (In resurrection) before discussing Q2.

Q2: Did Jesus require the Holy Spirit to be effective while He was on earth? If YES or NO, why? (Discuss)

There so little we can do as christians without the express presence of the Holy Spirit. That is little just to make lot of noises without the power and warmth. Timothy explains such phenomena as having a form of godliness without the power (2 Timothy 3:5). However, with the warmth that only the Holy Spirit brings, there’s so much we can accomplish, so much we can do to establish the kingdom of God in our community.

Prayer

Father, may your warmth be felt in me in such ways that it is welcoming and inclusive of others in my life and community. Let the world see that Jesus lives in me and through me, causing my friends to see His light, in Jesus name, Amen.