

Devotional Thoughts :: A BENEVOLENT LOVE by Carter Conlon

A BENEVOLENT LOVE by Carter Conlon - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2015/10/3 12:23

After having denied Jesus three timesâ€”just as the Lord had said he wouldâ€”Peter must have realized the impossibility of obeying the Lordâ€™s commandment in his own strength. Jesus had said to the disciples, â€œA new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to anotherâ€” (John 13:34-35).

It was not until the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon the 120 disciples in the Upper Room that Peter finally stepped into the place where he had been able to follow. Suddenly he burst forth into the marketplace and began speaking boldly to a blood-thirsty crowd. He was now enabled by the Spirit of God to be given for othersâ€”even those who were resisting their own salvation. It was truly an amazing moment.

As we do things Godâ€™s way, God will be our supply and will meet our needs. The Bible tells us that â€œthey that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostlesâ€™ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had needâ€” (Acts 2:41-45).

The believers held all things in common! There was such a fervency, such a baptism of the love of God, that people even began to sell lands and houses and lay the money at the apostlesâ€™ feet for distribution to those in need among the body of believers. Wherever God pours out His Spirit, a benevolence comes into the hearts of the people. It is a generous and compassionate love that causes them to look away from their own needs and instead see the needs of othersâ€”which is what this new commandment entails.