Person'sTHEME: MANIFESTING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
TOPIC: LOVE - SEEKING ANOTHER PERSON'S GOOD
TEXT: GALATIANS 5:22, JOHN 13:34-35, I CORINTH. 13:4-7, 1 JOHN 3:16-18

Introduction: What Is Growing in Your Life?
The first and foundational expression of the fruit of the Spirit is love. In fact, all the other aspects of the fruit of the Spirit are rooted in and flow from genuine love. Love is more than an emotion, a preference, or kind words.
Biblical love is a deliberate choice to seek another person's good, even when doing so requires sacrifice, humility, forgiveness, and self-denial.
In today's world, love is often defined by feelings, convenience, or personal benefit. However, God's love is different. God's love is active, sacrificial, and transformational. It is demonstrated not merely by what we say but by what we do. As believers, we are called to manifest this same love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus taught that love would be the distinguishing mark of His disciples. Therefore, when believers exhibit genuine love, they reflect the very character of Christ and become powerful witnesses to the world.
"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (**John 13:35**)
Key truth: Spirit-grown love moves beyond warm feelings into patient, truthful, and practical care for others.

Understanding the Fruit of Love
The Greek word often used for biblical love is **Agape**, which refers to selfless, unconditional, and sacrificial love. This is the kind of love God demonstrated toward humanity through Christ.

What love is not:
- Merely emotional affection
- Trying to please everyone
- Ignoring sin or harmful behaviour
- Avoiding difficult conversations

Rather, biblical love is:
- Seeking another person's highest good
- Speaking truth with grace
- Demonstrating compassion and mercy
- Serving others sacrificially
- Maintaining healthy and godly boundaries

Note: True love balances both truth and compassion.

Key Lessons from the Love – Seeking Another Person's Good.

1. Love Is the Primary Evidence of Spiritual Growth
The fruit of the Spirit begins with love because love is central to God's nature. A person may possess spiritual knowledge, talents, or gifts, but without love, such things lose their value in God's sight.
1 Corinthians 13:1-3 – Paul teaches that gifts, sacrifice, and service accomplish little without genuine love.
Lesson: Spiritual maturity is measured not only by what we know about God but also by how we treat people.

Reflection Question: Does my daily conduct reveal the love of Christ?

2. Love Requires Sacrifice
Love becomes visible when it costs us something. It is easy to love when people agree with us, appreciate us, or meet our expectations. Genuine love, however, continues even when it requires patience, forgiveness, and inconvenience.
Biblical Example: Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet
John 13:1-17 – Jesus washed the feet of all His disciples, including Judas who would betray Him and Peter who would deny Him.
Lesson: Christ-like love serves others regardless of how they may respond.
Question: What comforts, rights, or preferences might God be asking me to surrender for the good or benefits of others?

3. Love Seeks Another Person's Good
Biblical love is not self-centred. It intentionally seeks ways to benefit others spiritually, emotionally, and practically.
1 John 3:16-18 – "Let us not love in word or in tongue, but indeed and in truth."
Lesson: Love is demonstrated through actions, not merely words.
Question: How am I intentionally seeking the welfare of others?

4. Love Combines Truth and Compassion
God's love never ignores truth. Loving someone does not mean approving of everything they do. At times, genuine love requires correction, accountability, and healthy boundaries.
Ephesians 4:15 – "Speaking the truth in love."
Lesson: True love is compassionate without compromising righteousness.
Question: Am I speaking truth with kindness and humility?

Conclusion
Manifesting the fruit of the Spirit begins with manifesting love. Love is the clearest reflection of God's character and the strongest evidence of a transformed life. Through the Holy Spirit, believers are empowered to move beyond mere words and demonstrate practical, sacrificial, and truthful love toward others.

Closing Prayer
Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us first and demonstrating the greatest example of sacrificial love through Jesus Christ. Fill us afresh with Your Holy Spirit and teach us to love others as You have loved us**.**