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The Art of Prayer

10. Love: The Foundation for Successful Prayer

This chapter argues that God's kind of love (agape) is the first requirement for effective prayer. Because every born-again believer already has this love poured into them, they can choose to act on it—even toward enemies—and that love, expressed as compassion, is what makes intercession bring real deliverance.

Key takeaways

- Every child of God already has agape love inside them because God's nature is love; the question is whether you choose to exercise it.
- Agape is an act of the will. You choose to love all people, even the unlovable and your enemies, loving as God loves.
- Giving your life for others mainly means giving up your own will and time to pray and intercede for people.
- Compassion is an ingredient of divine love. In Jesus' ministry, every time He was moved with compassion, deliverance followed.
- Human sympathy says 'I'm sorry'; divine compassion says 'I feel how you feel'—and it brings deliverance.

- You only enter this compassion through fellowship with God; His presence permeates you with His love.
- The John G. Lake story shows compassion in action: weeping with a dying woman, he was gripped by Jesus' compassion and she was healed.

Passages worth keeping

> *"Human sympathy says, 'I know how you feel; I'm so sorry.' Divine compassion says, 'I feel how you feel.' And it brings deliverance."*

Marks the difference between mere pity and the compassion that actually moves God's power in prayer.

How it connects

The chapter ties prayer directly to the character of God: because God is love and that love is in us, intercession is simply letting His compassion flow back out toward people who need deliverance.

Scripture referenced

- **Romans 5:5** -- God's love is already shed abroad in believers' hearts by the Holy Spirit
- **John 13:34** -- The command to love one another as Christ loved us
- **Matthew 5:44,45** -- Love and pray for your enemies

- **Matthew 9:36-38** -- Jesus moved with compassion calls us to pray for laborers
- **John 15:13** -- Laying down one's life—given here as intercession for others
- **John 14:12** -- Believers do the works of Jesus, born out of love and compassion