



The  
**FLOW**  
Adult CURRICULUM

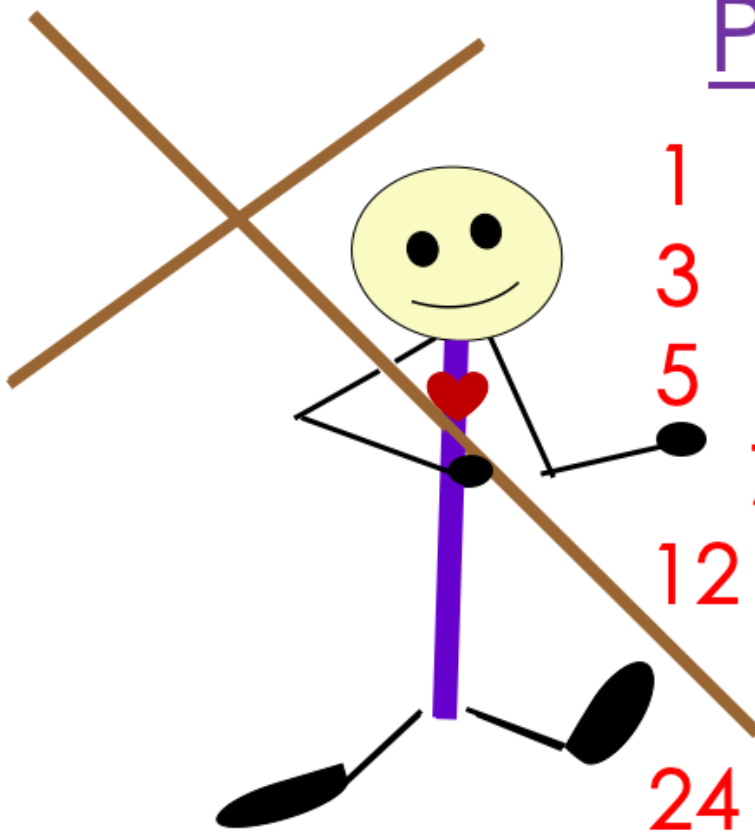
#3

HEART

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

(Come And See Christianity book pages 16-17)

# The FLOW



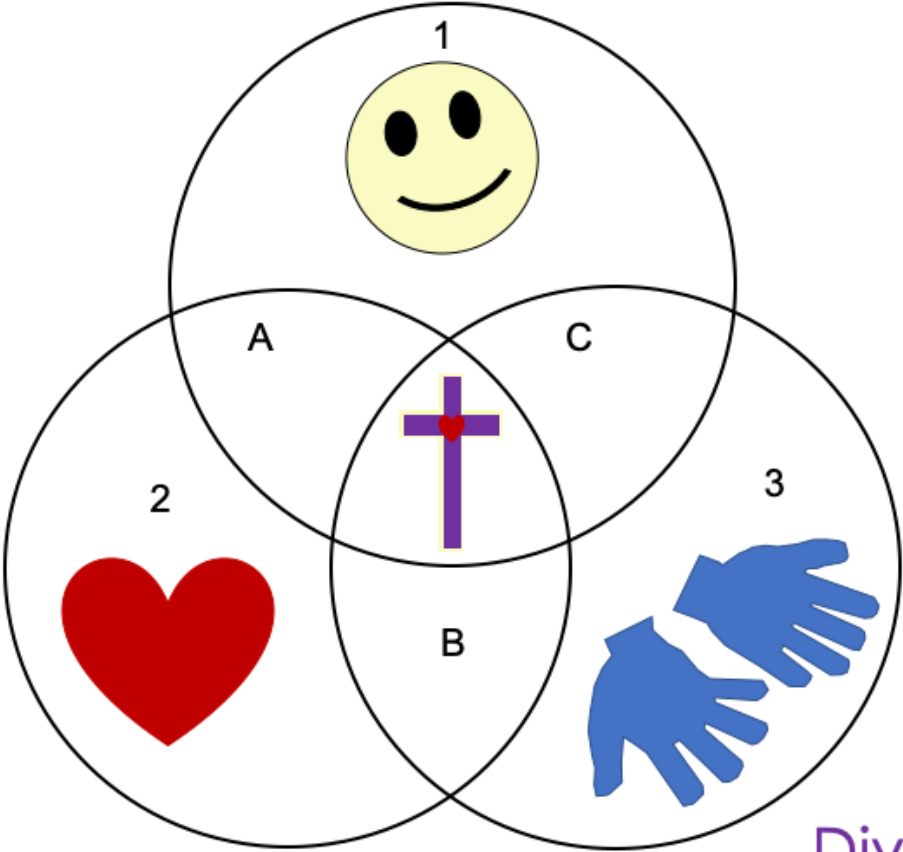
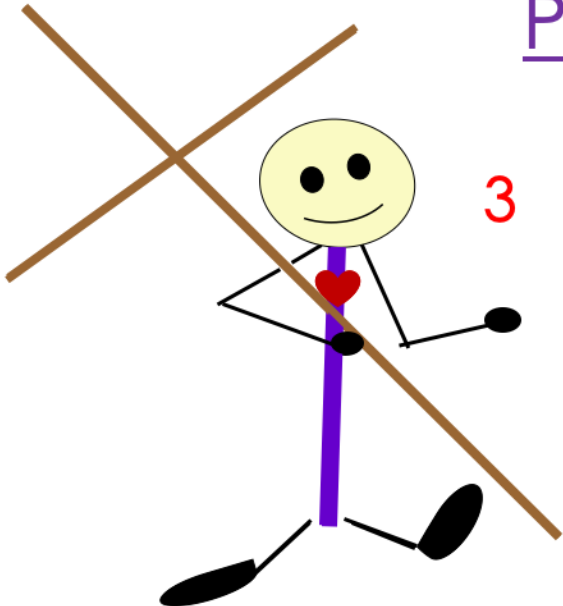
## PREVIEW:

- 1 Design
- 3 Divisions
- 5 Disciples
- 7 Details
- 12 Disciplines
- 24 Distinctives

SECTION TWO: 3 Divisions

PREVIEW:

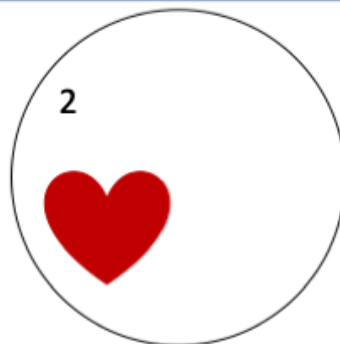
3 Divisions



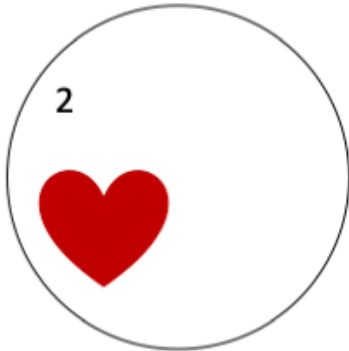
3  
Divisions

**3 DIVISIONS:** ALL people, everywhere, have 3 internal “divisions”... The **Head, Heart, & Hands** unite to define & describe our lives. That’s why healthy Christianity & **biblical discipleship** intentionally informs, inspects & inspires all 3 divisions.

# The HEART



“The **HEART**” is where a person’s passions exist & are exercised...

<u>The HEART</u>	<b>12 DISCIPLINES</b>
	<b>Journaling, Eat-Nothing</b> (Fasting), <b>Scripture</b> (in-take), <b>Understudy</b> (of Scripture), <b>Stewardship, Solitude,</b> <b>Prayer, Service, Worship,</b> <b>Outreach, Relationships,</b> <b>Development</b>

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

INTRO:

Have you ever asked yourself or thought about the following questions? What drives and defines you? What connects and completes you? What controls and compels you?

As we compare and contrast Christianity’s biblical worldview with (and against) a multiplicity of cultural thoughts, definitions, evaluations, and perceived understanding of the human heart, let us always remember what God declared in

1st Samuel 16:7

***“...the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”***

In this lesson, we will bring application and biblical equipping to the Bible's heart-shaping, truth in love. To that end, knowing that the heart is where a person's head and hands missionally unite, (and where the soul's personality is formed), it is important to understand, both theologically and practically, how Christianity's passions define and describe, as well as refine and refresh the human heart – all by God's grace and all for His glory.

*Where love is the compelling power, there is no sense of strain or conflict or bondage in doing what is right: the man or woman who is compelled by Jesus' love and empowered by His Spirit does the will of God from the heart.*

*- F.F. Bruce*

#### PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen and Amen

#### CONTEXT:

Macro

*The Gospel, if it is really believed, removes neediness - the need to be constantly respected, appreciated, and well regarded; the need to have everything in your life go well; the need to have power over others. All of these great, deep needs continue to control you only because the concept of the glorious God delighting in you with all His being is just that - a concept and nothing more. Our hearts don't believe it, so they operate in default mode. If you want to really change, you must let the Gospel teach you - that is to train, discipline, coach you - over a period of time. You must let the Gospel argue with you. You must let the Gospel sink down deeply into your heart, until it changes your motivation and views and attitudes.*

*- Tim Keller*

Micro

*There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.*

*- Blaise Pascal*

Message

*The man or woman who does not know God demands an infinite satisfaction from other human beings which they cannot give, and in the case of the man, he becomes tyrannical and cruel. It springs from this one thing, the human heart must have satisfaction, but there is only one Being who can satisfy the last abyss of the human heart, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*- Oswald Chambers*

BIG IDEA: The love of Christ defines, connects, completes, and compels Christians.

*God sees hearts as we see faces.*

*- George Herbert*

PREVIEW:

1. The love of Christ **CONNECTS** the Church.
2. The love of Christ **COMPLETES** the Church.
3. The love of Christ **COMPELS** the Church.

TEXT:

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

***For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.***

# 1. The love of Christ CONNECTS the Church.

## Illustration

It has long been said that people do not care about how much you know until they know how much you care. Herein we see a very practical view of the relationship between truth and love... or in other words, (and the language of Come And See Christianity), the connectedness of the "HEAD" and the "HEART."

As we press into the Bible's emphasis on the Christian's heart and Christianity's Christ-like love, be sure to recognize the critical and sequential order here. In short, truth always comes before love because, by definition, only truth can truly define what love really is. At the same time, love should always follow truth. To put it another way, Christ-like fruit should come forth, supernaturally, from the roots of genuine, Christian truth.

To take things one step further, while God-honoring truth and love cannot be separated, they must be placed in their proper, biblical positions. In short, per Ephesians 4:15, truth belongs "IN love." To prove the point, consider the following; when "love" is allowed to define "truth," both are perverted and lost! Stated differently, when "love" gets in front of "truth," that misguided, (by definition) and counterfeit emotion that gets called "love," will frequently lead to tragic deceptions and, in the worst of cases, eternal destruction.

*Love without truth is a lie.*

*At the same time, truth without love is reduced to sterile data.*

## EXPLANATION

Love is both, the currency and the language of the human heart. Consequently, before we press into our lesson, it is essential that we first define and describe biblical, Christian love. By way of introduction, let us establish a baseline that includes three helpful definitions AND "directions."

### A. Definitions:

- a. Generic Love = Unselfish, loyal, charitable & compassionate concern for the biblical well being of another
- b. Agape Love = a fruit of the Spirit; also, a spiritual gift; true agape love is Christ-like love.



*Sometimes people may give their lives willingly for ones they deem as worthy—a friend, a relative, other “good” people—but Christ’s love goes beyond that. Christ’s love extends to those most unworthy of it. He willingly took the punishment of those who tortured Him, hated Him, rebelled against Him, and cared nothing about Him, those who were most undeserving of His love ([Romans 5:6-8](#)). He gave the most He could give for those who deserved it the least! Sacrifice, then, is the essence of godly love, called agape love. This is God-like love, not man-like love ([Matthew 5:43-48](#)).*

– **GotQuestions.org**

- c. Love of Christ = “the love that Jesus Christ has toward mankind. His love can be briefly stated as His willingness to act in our best interest, especially in meeting our greatest need, even though it cost Him everything and even though we were the least worthy of such love.

*Because mankind’s sin has been paid for by our sinless Savior Jesus Christ, God who is just and holy can now forgive our sins when we accept Christ Jesus’ payment as our own ([Romans 3:21-26](#)). Thus, Christ’s love is shown in His leaving His home in heaven, where He was worshiped and honored as He deserved, to come to earth as a man where He would be mocked, betrayed, beaten, and crucified on a cross to pay the penalty for our sin, rising again from the dead on the third day. He considered our need of a Savior from our sin and its penalty as more important than His own comfort and life ([Philippians 2:3-8](#)).*

*This love which He demonstrated toward us on the cross is just the beginning. When we place our trust in Him as our Savior, He makes us God’s children, co-heirs with Him! He comes to dwell within us through His Holy Spirit, promising that He will never leave us or forsake us ([Hebrews 13:5-6](#)). Thus, we have a loving companion for life. And no matter what we go through, He is there, and His love is ever available to us ([Romans 8:35](#)). But as He rightfully reigns as a benevolent King in heaven, we need to give Him the position He deserves in our lives as well, that of Master & not merely companion. It is only then that we will experience life as He intended and live in the fullness of His love ([John 10:10b](#)).* – **GotQuestions.org**

**B. Directions:**

- a. Vertically - ALIGN and POINT your heart UP to Creator Christ!

Romans 8:35

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*

- b. Horizontally. - SHARE your heart IN the family of God!

1 John 3:16

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

- c. Missionally - GO and SPREAD your heart OUT to the world!

John 14:15

*If you love Me (Jesus)  
you will obey My commandments.*

John 20:21

*As the Father has sent Me (Jesus),  
so now I send you.*

Matthew 28:18-20

*All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey all of My commandments... and I will be with you always...*

Application

- A. Live a life filled with the connecting of Christ-like LOVE and COMPASSION!

Ephesians 5:2

*Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ.  
He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us,  
a pleasing aroma to God.*

B. Live a life that is willing to connect Christ-like love and CONFRONTATION!

Mark 10:21

*Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

## 2. The love of Christ COMPLETES the Church.

Illustration

*You must keep all earthy treasures out of your heart, and let Christ be your treasure, and let Him have your heart.*  
- Charles Spurgeon

Explanation

A. The love of Christ COMPLETES our family CALLING

Ephesians 3:14-15

*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,*

B. The love of Christ COMPLETES our family COMMISSIONING

Ephesians 3:16

*that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,*

C. The love of Christ COMPLETES our family CAPACITY

Ephesians 3:17-19

*so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

The Christian walk is to be characterized by love (Rom. 14:15).

The Christian is to increase & abound in love (1 Thess. 3:12).

Jesus commanded **“love as I have loved you.”** (John 13:34)

Application

Per God’s Word, all people, everywhere, regardless of their current worldview, are encouraged to cry out to Christ until they can confirm that He has replaced their old, unregenerate “hearts of stone” with a new, gospel-generated “heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26). Then, from there, in universal fashion, God’s family members should, in supernatural unity, continue to “work out their salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12-13).

With biblical ‘truth in love’ (Ephesians 4:15) having been established in their heart, the Christian’s DNA (the Gospel’s miraculous, Holy Spirit empowered, and transformative adoption) is completed. Now, loving family life begins! To prove this point, and establish the new believer’s potential, when describing every born again believer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:3 promises: “You have received everything you need for life and godliness.” Therefore, in one sense, when The Church is worshipping, working, warring, walking, and witnessing in one accord, our biblical bullseye is being hit. In other words, when the world sees the One true, living Christ alive in each Christian and throughout the LORD’s local, regional, and global Church family, then, (and only then), can we expect to be effective when showing and telling others how the love of Christ completes us (and could do the same for them).

Those who know and celebrate the blessing of being complete in Christ will simultaneously champion His Great Commandments and Great Commission – all in the context of authenticity and affection. To be clear, while the Christian will not be perfect, their heart’s passion should be glowing and growing in Christ-likeness.

Mark 12:30-31

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength...  
and love your neighbor as yourself”*

Mark 16:15

*And He (Jesus) said to them,  
“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*

1 John 3:18

*“Let us not love with word and tongue but in action and in truth.”*

### 3. The love of Christ COMPELS the Church.

#### Illustration

Peter Cameron Scott, (1890)... a gifted vocalist in his day, was on the steps of an opera house, ready to pursue a career as a singer, when God challenged him. Scott would later tell others that he heard the Lord ask him: “Are you going to seek a life of self-glory?”

Knowing the right thing to do, Scott responded by changing directions and obeying God’s call to serve Him. Next, Scott committed to missionary training and at the age of 23, he sailed for Africa. Within a few months, his brother joined him, but tragically, the harsh African climate & environment (which came to be known as “the white man’s graveyard”) took its toll... Shortly thereafter, Scott’s brother died.

With steadfast focus and a heavy heart, Scott built a crude coffin, dug the grave himself, and buried his brother. In that season, after being alone at the grave site, Scott told others that he had committed himself to preach the gospel in Africa.

Sadly, soon after, his own health began to break down. Scott felt forced to go back to England and then to the United States. However, **he did not go back in retreat, but rather, to recruit!** In 1895, at the age of 28, through the tenacious commitment of Scott, and the amazing grace of Almighty God, the Africa Inland Mission was established.

A mere 14 months after Scott's return voyage brought new harvesters back to the mission field of Africa, he too fell ill and died. In the wake of Peter Scott's death, the Africa Inland Mission nearly failed... as one after another of the workers died. By the summer of 1899, only one missionary remained active on the field... but he persisted! And... by God's grace and through His servant's missional perseverance, ten years later, there were 31 missionaries on the field.

***In the early years, more missionaries died than people came to Christ.  
Yet more and more missionaries continued to arrive...  
with their goods packed in coffins.***

In response, the Africans were amazed at such love, commitment, and determination. They said: "Surely only a message of great importance would inspire such actions.

***Today, the fruit of this mission is measured in the millions!***

Explanation

*At conversion we do not merely turn over a new leaf;  
we begin a new life under a new Master.  
- Life Application Bible*

Simply put, the love of Christ compels all Christians to...

1. Die to self.
2. Live for Him.
3. Go to others!

(Note: "Compel" can be defined as a pressure that causes action.)

***God's love experienced compels God's love expressed!***

Once again, let us go directly to God and His Word for our explanation.

## 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

### **The Ministry of Reconciliation**

**11**Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. **12**We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. **13**For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. **14**For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; **15**and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

**16**From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. **17**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **18**All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19**that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20**Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21**For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*“Just as in the days of the Apostles, so at this day (October 1517), we are forced to hear from certain groups that we, by our obstinacy to adhere to the truth, do offend against love & unity in the churches, because we reject their doctrine.*

*It would be better, they say, that we should let it pass, especially since the doctrine in dispute is what they call non-essential. And, therefore, they say, to stir up so great a discord & contention in the church... is unfruitful & unnecessary. To this I reply: Cursed be that love & unity which cannot be preserved except at the peril of God’s Word.”*

*- Martin Luther*

*Without the heart it is not worship; it is a hypocrite’s stage play... We may truly be said to worship God - though we lack perfection; but we cannot be said to worship Him if we lack sincerity.*

*- Stephen Charnock*

## Application

*“We need to understand that the kind of life Paul advocated isn’t extraordinary or out beyond our reach. **It’s normal!** We often think of Paul as this radical figure in history, so completely sold out for Jesus that everyone around him thought he was crazy. From a biblical perspective; however, what Paul (preached, taught, &) described is a normal passion for Jesus. We have sadly lowered our expectations (and changed the biblical standards) of faithfulness and passion for Jesus to such depths that anything close to Paul’s descriptions (and the Bible’s mandates) seem totally unattainable.*

*In truth, a life that is radically compelled by the love of Christ should be our minimum goal, not the maximum.*

*We also need to understand that this type of living is in direct opposition to the way of the world. We exist in a me-centric, ego-driven culture. Subsequently, we find it hard to think about living in any other way. The same was true for the Corinthian church. That’s why Paul told them again and again that living in response to the love of Christ will always be a counter-cultural experience...*

*The love of Christ reframes our perspective on everything and everyone.”*

- The Disciples Path

## REVIEW:

The love of Christ defines, connects, completes, and compels Christians.

## CLOSE:

### **For What?**

*When the heart full of God's love can draw on the mind full of God's word, timely blessings flow from the mouth.*

*- John Piper*

*A divided heart loses both worlds.*

*- A. B. Simpson*



## So What?

If all you have is truth, without its corresponding, biblical love you will not understand or experience true Christianity!

*Christianity is not just repeating John 3:16 or Acts 16:31;  
it is yielding the heart and the life to Christ.*

*- Harry Ironside*

In a similar sense, if your hands have the ability to do and accomplish the greatest of deeds, but they are not motivated and empowered by a Christ-like heart, your “wood, hay, and stubble” works (1 Corinthians 3:10-15) will not pass God’s final and fiery test of faith.

*The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be  
seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.*

*- Helen Keller*

## Now What?

Start exercising your heart! The acronym J.E.S.U.S.’S. P. S.W.O.R.D. designates 12 spiritual disciplines as personal and church-wide exercises that help to refine and refresh, to build and to bless the Christian heart.

While the middle lessons of our Come And See Christianity curriculum will address each individual discipline with its own, in depth session, at this point, you would be well served by beginning your new, disciple’s daily workout. To get started, do what you can and prayerfully ask the LORD to prepare your heart for Christ-like growth.

The 12 spiritual disciplines are:

J	=	Journaling
E	=	Eat-nothing (FASTING)
S	=	Scripture-intake
U	=	Understudy of Scripture
S	=	Solitude
‘S	=	Stewardship
P	=	Prayer
S	=	Service
W	=	Worship
O	=	Outreach
R	=	Relationships
D	=	Development

## PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.  
In Jesus name we pray.  
Amen and Amen

Related SERMON:

*"Compelled By Love"*  
2 Corinthians 5:14-15  
October 29, 2017  
Sermon Series: Miraculous Metamorphosis