

Daily Devotional, April 27, 2021 **Becoming a Reflection of God's Love**

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. 1 John 4:12-16 (NIV)

I'm sure we all can remember hearing the question, "have you ever seen the wind?" Without hesitation, many of us might say yes, we know what wind is, we have seen what wind does, therefore we believe we have seen the wind. But have we really *seen* the wind? No, we have not seen the wind, we have only seen the effects of the wind.

We welcome the feel of the wind on a hot summer day as it comes to us as a cool breeze of relief. We see the damaging effects of the wind after a powerful thunderstorm or tornado have swept through, and the destruction that the winds of a hurricane can bring. We have discovered ways to harness the wind in order to be airborne, and even to create energy. We have the ability to predict wind patterns and to devise weather forecasts. Yet, no matter how much we have grown to understand the wind, or seen its effects, we still haven't *seen* the wind.

The Hebrew language holds a deep secret about the wind as it relates to God. For Jews, the same word is used for wind, breath, and spirit. Often this word is used to describe the God's Spirit, and even the name they give to God, YHWH. in their language it sounds little more than a breath. John plays on this secret as he is teaching new disciples how to listen for and to obey God. In the verses above he reminds us all that no one has ever seen God. Just as no one has ever seen the wind, neither has anyone ever seen God. However, we know God because we have seen the effects of God. We know the power of God's love to forgive and heal. We have seen the effects of God's love on those who were lost and are now found. We have felt the power of God's love in us as we have been transformed into God's new creations.

Our next step is to allow God's steadfast love be perfected in us. And the best way to do so, is by sharing it with others. Sometimes we have trouble explaining God's love to people. Other times they don't want to listen. Sometimes we don't have the words, but we can still show it. Our actions can reveal it. While we may not be able to explain it, it is best when shown. Love is shown in us as we act out of kindness and compassion. Love is shown as we gather items to send to those in need. Love is shown as we volunteer our time to help a neighbor or someone we know who can't provide for themselves. Love is seen in offering a hand up out of a hard situation. Love is shown in many ways, and Scripture tells us "love never fails."

In today's world, showing love is a little different because we are mostly distant from one another, but it doesn't stop love from being shown. No one has ever seen God, but maybe they have seen God in you as you have shown them the effects of God's love.

I hope this will encourage you to think of new ways to share God's love in the days and weeks ahead as we begin to see folks beginning to get out of the house again, while still cautiously protecting self and others. Let's be open to sharing from the bounty of God's love that God has shared with all of us. Be the best reflection of God's love that you can possibly be.

Prayer: Dear God, please make me a servant that loves other people with all my heart. Help me to have a selfless attitude towards others, and may I be a part of people's solutions and not a source of their problems. Please allow me to be your true ambassador on earth, and may I serve you well. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, Amen.