

THE LOVE FOR SOULS SERIES

THE BLESSINGS FOR LOVING SOULS

In this message, we want to look at the benefits of having the love for human souls. We spoke about the value of human souls in the last message.

Lets look at the book of Proverbs 19 and we will see the first benefit of having compassion for souls. In Proverbs 19:17 *He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given.* The word *pity* here is not just a human feeling. But it is the Hebrew word *hanan*, which means to really to have compassion and a generosity towards the poor. The emphasis is not just on helping the poor. In society, people do help the poor but sometimes it is commercially motivated. For many big companies it looks good for them to be a part of social work. They do it more because of free press publicity rather than because they really feel some compassion for the poor. Yet, at the same time its not just feeling without action. So, the Hebrew word *hanan* not only speaks about a sense of compassion, which motivates and moves us to a generosity for those who are poor but it also speaks about a love, a consideration for human souls. And souls are more important to you than things around you. And your heart feels it when another human suffers. Whether they suffer lack of need or any areas of their lives, your heart feels it. And it takes a passion and a love for souls to feel the sufferings of other human beings. It is actually there inherent in our spirit. But as we grow up in our adult life the goals and pursuits of our individual lives occupy our attention and concentration and we forget that in society there is a cry of human souls, cry of need, cry of lack, and we classify all of them under this group that the bible calls the poor.

And here the blessing is that God Himself hears their cry, And God is touched when we begin to respond to the need of the souls around us. The bible says when we do so we are doing it as unto the Lord. God considers our doing of it a lending onto Him.

Lets look at Matt. 25:31 onwards this is in regard to the judgment seat and Jesus Christ here pronouncing the judgment. *“When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at his left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, “Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer Him, “Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visited Thee? And the King will answer them, Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me. Then He will say to those at His left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me. Then they will also answer, Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee? Then He will answer them. Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me. And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*

What separates the sheep from the goats? The goats were selfish. The sheep cares for others, for the needy, the lost, souls that are hungry, thirsty, sick, imprisoned. In other words, the sheep has a compassion for souls whereas the goats are just interested in their own lives. The definition of sheep and goats is of course based on the acceptance of Jesus Christ or non-acceptance of Jesus Christ. It goes further than that. Perhaps we are born again and potentially saved but we still behave like a goat. One of the characteristics of goats in the natural is that goats are very individualistic creatures. They don't travel or move about in flocks like sheep. There

is a difference you seldom see a herd of goats but sheep need one another. They always flock together. You seldom see sheep individually going by themselves and if they do so, they tend to get lost. The characteristics of a sheep are that we would have compassion, a care and the love for other fellow human beings, a love for humanity, a love for souls in the core of our heart.

The other basic thing that we see here is that we show our love to the Lord by loving souls. Our love for the Lord in fact is measured based on that. I have always been amazed by the fact that the Lord's joy and sorrow are to a certain extent dependant on what happens to human beings. Let me show it from the bible. In Genesis 6 about Noah's flood, it says that the Lord was grieved. The Lord felt sorrow. We know there is joy in the presence of God but here the bible says the Lord is grieved. And every time when people turn way from God like in the Old Testament times, it says the Lord was grieved. And then only you read about the Lord being angry. His grief comes before His anger. Before He poured down judgment in the flood in Noah's time we read about His sorrow and His anger. I am always stunned by the fact that God's joy and sorrow is related to what happens to human soul. Why is that so? It is because we are His creation. All mankind was potentially created to be His sons and His daughters. He gave us life and He feels it every time a lost soul comes to know Him. The bible says all the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. I believe that their joy comes from God. God is so happy and His joy radiates to all angels. I wonder what the scene is like in heaven. We think that God sits up there and is emotionless. But there is something about God that you know when He is grieved and you know when He is pleased. All the angels are around the throne always worshiping Him. I believe that there are some times when God consider some things and the angels could sense that quietness that comes over the presence of God. There would be silence in heaven or some thing.

Let just read Genesis 6:6 *And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart.* I wonder what all the angels felt like when God was grieved. Gabriel, Michael, and all the worshiping angels were around to witness God's grief and anger. The judgment through the flood was coming and probably there were millions of human souls at that time. Out of these millions, only eight would be saved. Before God poured down the judgment, around the throne of God in heaven the angels were rejoicing and worshipping. Suddenly the angels sensed

quietness. I don't know whether God has tears or not. I know Jesus Christ has since He became man. I know the Holy Spirit can be grieved. But I don't know whether God the Father really cry tears. Some mystical writers have written that God the Father do cry tears. I know He feel grieved and sorrow but I am not sure whether tears roll out. When He grieves what would you do if you were one of those worship angels? That grief must have been felt in heaven. God is pleased when His Son laid down His life to redeem souls. God is grieved when souls are lost. God is pleased when souls are won. When God is pleased, the angels could feel it since it vibrates to them and causes them to be joyful. So, when it was time for Jesus Christ to come to redeem mankind, He emptied Himself and came down as man. For the first time there is going to be salvation in a true sense for mankind. On that first Christmas we read about all the angels rejoicing, glory be to God in the highest. You know why they are joyful? Papa God was joyful. You can imagine God's excitement when He sends His only Begotten Son. That excitement radiated to all the angels. God gets excited when souls are won. Jesus Himself declares that when one soul is won to Him, just one soul added to His kingdom, the Father God gets excited and all the angels get excited and rejoice.

That's why I could understand a little bit more in the book of Revelation 8:1 *When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.* Do you know what that silence meant? God is thinking and grieving. Now you know why there is silence in heaven. Do you think it's easy for God to just pour down His judgment? Do you think it's easy for a father to discipline a child that he loves? This is not just mere discipline; He is going to destroy. As a judge, He has to do it. It would be just like a judge who happens to find out that the criminal he is going to try is his own son that has committed a crime of murder. The father had to judge his own son. And he wrestles between his family love and the law. The law has to prevail as otherwise, he would be an unjust judge. And for half an hour before the earth was to experience the most destructive judgment that would destroy billions of lives, the Father God is silent. No angel dare make a single noise at all.

I read about how in the Gulf war when former President Bush of the United States had to make a decision to send the soldiers in. Being a born again believer, he went to seek God and he cried. He cried because he knew that something had to be done but lives were going to be lost. And he knew that the decision he makes would cost human lives. How would you like to be in that place? As a human being, he could

feel it. That is the cost of such a decision because you don't win a war without sacrificing lives. And he knew that he was deciding the deaths of others. It's not an easy decision.

Now if we could sort of comprehend that feeling in President George Bush a little bit in the natural, you multiply that by billions and billions of times and you could imagine the feeling that was there when there was silence in heaven for half an hour. God was just grieving. For a moment, He held back. It was not easy to lift that hand of judgment. Why must there be silence in heaven? It was for God to grieve. God loves souls. He loves souls so much that He finds it hard to allow the law to destroy us. But as a righteous Judge and the Ruler of the universe, He has to uphold His law. Otherwise, the universe would be in a chaotic situation. And He has to bring judgment down where it's due even to His own creation. All the angels had to give God a moment of sorrow. I believe that no matter how great that we feel a compassion for souls, which those in the ministry possibly feel, and every Christians possibly feel, we cannot match that feeling of what God really felt. I just pray that somehow in this series you would just catch a glimpse, a holy glimpse of the heart of God. Perhaps something would change of the materialistic character of our being, something may change of our selfish nature, and somehow on our inside we begin to catch the capacity to love souls the way God loves souls. When we really love souls the way God loves souls God gives you the power to help them.

In Proverbs 19 just now we read that he who take pity or have compassion and generosity towards the poor lends to the Lord. Why? Because God feels for them. And when you do so, you are quote unquote helping God, even without the rewards that motivate us to love souls. We are motivated by the knowing that every time a soul is loved our Father God has less to sorrow for.

## **Prosperity**

The first blessing for loving souls is prosperity. When you love souls God gives you the power to show the love. This is the secret of the wealth of the sinner coming to the righteous. Every Tom, Dick and Harry is claiming that promise, even selfish

people are claiming that. My friends the wealth of the sinner doesn't just come for the righteous for nothing. The wealth of the sinner comes to the righteous to enable the righteous to love souls. Proverbs 28:8 *One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor.* That is the same Hebrew word *hanan* or pity the poor.

My friends, we have to really understand the true essence and purpose of prosperity. Prosperity is not given so that you live in mansions. Prosperity is not given so that we will drive luxurious cars. Prosperity is not given so that we would have the best in life. Prosperity is given so that we would have a greater capacity and power to love souls. Therefore, if we desire prosperity that God talks about the wealth of the sinner you must love souls and show it first. Have a generosity, have a compassion, both in your inner most feelings and in your actions, in your heart, in words and in deeds. Now which comes first, the prosperity or the pity of the poor? The pity of the poor because Proverbs 28:8 says God gathers the wealth for those who pity the poor. You must already be taking pity on the poor first. All those rich people on this earth if they do not use their wealth to love souls, their wealth will end up with those that do love souls. That's the Word of God. Such people will be rich, even unbelievers who do not know God but yet have the capacity and love for human kind. They really want to help their employees, they really want to help another human being find and establish their own life.

There is some thing about this truth here that we need to take note of. That it is a blessing when you love souls. When you love souls, it is not that things would be taken from you, even though you will give a lot away. But it is being like God. When you expand on the inside to love others, God will expand you on the outside and give you the capacity to do so. And unless there is an expansion on our inside, there is no expansion on our outside. Remember there are two things. One is the feeling for it and the other is the action for it. This is what I personally believe. Sometimes the extra things that God has given us are meant to bless other. Whether it is material prosperity, whether it is a position in life, maybe God has promoted you and put you in a certain powerful position, you are there to help. God gives you a greater capacity to love souls. And if we are not faithful in the position and in the wealth God has given us, He will give it to another one who will do the way He wants.

Turn to Mark 10:30 *Who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecution, and in the age to come eternal life.* But look at verse 29 *Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for My sake and for the gospel.* There are two purposes given to us. First, it is for Jesus' sake. Why? It is so that we could love like He loved. Second, it is for the gospel, to win souls. He that wins souls is wise. Now which comes first? Giving ourselves for Jesus sake and for the gospel or the hundredfold? Of course, you give to Jesus and the gospel first. We must have that in our life all the time. We must be seeking to fulfill Jesus' life in us His love for souls. Seeking to win souls to the gospel and then the hundredfold comes. Remember it is not just giving that brings it. The law of giving is found in Luke 6:38 but this is more than the law of giving it's the law of the hundredfold. And it's based upon our prime motivation. We must have a passion for souls and we give our lives to help souls. Then God will prosper you and give you a hundredfold capacity to do it. So what's the purpose of the hundredfold? It is so that you could love and give your life even more for Jesus' sake and for the gospel. It is to give you a greater capacity to do what you are already doing; it is not meant for you to have a greater ability to live in luxury. I am not against people having wealth and material goods that God blessed them but the fact is we should not be seeking material wealth when we are really born again and renewed in our mind. The hundredfold is for loving souls, a greater capacity to love souls so that you don't have to worry about where you are going to get the money to do God's work of loving and caring for souls. All we have to do is to be concerned that our prime motivation in life is to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are to love souls the way God loves us and to give our lives to continue to love them.

II Cor. 8:14-15 *But that as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality. As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing over, and he who gathered little had no lack."* The point of the fact here is that the abundance God gives to one life is to give them the capacity to help other lives that are in lack. All our wealth, all our prosperity, and every position of power and authority on this earth are given by God to increase our capacity to help others. Lets understand that. We are sheep and not goats. We seek to love souls and to help with all the capacity of our being even though we may not receive an immediate reward. Suppose you are driving along and you see somebody in need or perhaps there was an accident and

nobody was helping him or her and you got your appointment to catch. Are you the type of person who just had to stop to see that that person gets help first? That situation will reveal our character, whether we are selfish and just concentrating on our own goals or whether we have a capacity to love souls everywhere, that we just want to make sure that all souls receive some help somewhere. Sometimes, you want to help and your capacity is not there. But because you desire to help one day God increases your capacity to help. So, let's start in our heart. The first reward for loving souls is prosperity.

## Wisdom

The second reward is wisdom. Proverbs 11:30 *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who win souls is wise.* If you read that verse in the Hebrew the word "is" is not in that verse and it sounds more like this: *The fruit of the righteous, the tree of life.* Another version says, *the produce of the righteousness is life;* then the second part says, *he who win souls, wise.* The train of thought is consistent in both parts of the above verse. Just as the fruit or produce of the righteousness is the tree of life, likewise the fruit or produce of winning souls is wisdom. Or wisdom is produced when you care and you love souls. It is not so much as *he who wins souls is wise*, but the more correct rendering should be *he who wins souls becomes wise.* And that's the second benefit for having the love for souls. God gives you wisdom to help them. It's strange but the purpose of the truth of knowledge given to us is that it gives us a greater capacity to help others. And God gives us wisdom because we desire to help others. That's the second great blessing. God will make you a wiser person. God will increase your wisdom then you could help others.

Let's give an example in II Chronicles. Here is the life of Solomon before he receives wisdom. II Chron.1: 6-10 *And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the Lord, which was at the tent of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it. In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said to God, "Thou hast shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and hast made me king in his stead. O Lord God, let Thy promise to David my father be now fulfilled, for Thou hast made me king over a people as many as the dust of the earth. Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this Thy people, that is so great?"*

The next verse is where we want to focus on. *God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart."* Before he prayed that prayer, what motivated him to pray that prayer was the desire in his heart. If right now God were to send an angel to appear and say to you, "Ask anything you want," what is in your heart will come out. Solomon didn't expect the Lord to give him the liberty to choose. Not only did God come and say, "I have come to answer your prayer," but also here, God says, "Choose." And Solomon's choice is based on his love for his people. God said that it was in his heart. Solomon has a heart for people. He felt he needed to help the people. God says because this was in your heart, it pre-existed even before you prayed to Me, God says *and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honour, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked long life, (Solomon did not ask for the things that most people would have asked. But he asked for wisdom) but has asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may rule My people.* That he learns to be a better shepherd for his people that he may learn to be a better king for his people. He loves the people and he cares for them. And the passion and love that he has for them came out in his prayer and God recognized it. He didn't ask for his enemies' lives, didn't ask for long life, he didn't ask for riches, he didn't ask for honour. And God gave him a bonus that we already saw in point one: all those bonuses of prosperity will always come. But the focus is God will give you wisdom to help others.

Think about other people like Joseph in the prison in the book of Genesis. As he was in prison, he noticed his two new prisoners the butler and the baker. As they were there, they were sad. He said to them and said, "Why are you sad?" Now who started the conversation? Joseph. I may be a little upsetting here but listen very carefully: an introvert person is a selfish person because he only thinks of his own life. We need to look out and to look up to care for others. Sometimes, we are not introverted by choice; we are introverted by circumstances, by our upbringing. But that has to change. By the time I was 17 I was an introvert. I never had a close relationship with my own parents or with my brothers and sisters. I naturally became an introvert. Because all I thought about was my life and what I wanted to do with my life. But God has changed that after I was born again and after I entered the ministry. If you were to sit together with twenty people and fellowship, if you are an introvert you don't care for people. You don't start a conversation you let people start the conversation. There is something inherently wrong. And that has

to change. We are not expecting you to change immediately. But it has to change first of all it has to come from your life that you care for people sometimes even for strangers. You have to have a certain care that comes naturally. Recently I was with one doctor and we were working on the tape project. Then he got a call to attend to one patient who was 84 years old. When he came back from his call, though it was none of my business, it came out naturally. I asked, "How is the patient now? Then I realized that God must have put something in my heart. It was none of my business but something comes out that you do care for a person you never met before. One reason I asked is that I could also pray for him. But that's concern and care for souls is what needs to be rooted in our hearts.

In the book of Genesis 40:6 *When Joseph came to them in the morning and saw them, they were troubled.* Question if you were in that position would you try to cheer that person? Some Christians won't even care. They mind their own business. But Joseph had some authority. Remember authority is given to us by God to help others. See Joseph is blessed because there is an inherent care that developed in him. There you see the two jokers, the butler and the baker. They both had the body posture of someone very depressed. What would you have done? Perhaps you may not be Joseph, you may not be in prison, and they may not be prisoners. Perhaps they are your own office colleagues. Maybe you work in a big company and you don't really know everybody. But it becomes so obvious that, that person is really having some problem. What would you do? You say, "I am going to mind my own business. I don't know them. They may reject my help." True, but at least you could have come to them and said, "Hi are you all right? If you need anything just let me know." Don't you think that will make a difference? That's what we call Christianity. You reach out; you don't wait for people to reach out to you. What would you have done if it has been verse 6 of that situation for our life somewhere?

Joseph didn't know it and nobody would have realized it that that was the most important thing Joseph did. Perhaps the most important thing that you ever did was to show concern for somebody else. Joseph didn't know it but that was the key to his freedom. But for some people it takes that before we move out of our self-centeredness to help another person in their own work. We need initiative. Most people just couldn't care. And Joseph was that type of nature. When he came and saw that they were sad, something on his inside reached out. He knew what it was like to be sorrowful. He knew what it was like to be cast out, cast down, rejected,

despised. And somehow, through the Lord he had lifted himself up by God's grace. So, he comes and sees these two sad new prisoners and they are really down. Remember he doesn't know what they have done. They may have been murderers, killers, thieves, and robbers. He came to them and asked, "Why are you sad, can I help you?" This is a love for souls. Because of that, Joseph received greater wisdom to help others.

The blessings, he that wins souls is wise. And the word *wins* is the Hebrew word *laqah*, which means to take, to fetch or to bring. That means initiative. We have to take initiative to win souls. And that will produce wisdom in your life, which is the second great blessing. That was not the first time Joseph did that. He probably did it all the time. That was how he wins the favor of the keeper of the prison. He noticed that Joseph was such a different prisoner. He was so helpful and desirous to help. And he says, "Well I am going to promote you." We realize that Joseph never had any indication that he had receive power or wisdom to interpret dreams and it's a gift of wisdom to interpret dreams. Somewhere at that time in his life, he developed the gift to interpret dreams. It was wisdom from above that grew into his life because he had the capacity to love others, to care for others, to be concerned for others. One day God said, "Joseph I am going to bless you with position." And He takes him, places him at the right hand of Pharaoh, and makes him a man to help other people. Wisdom brings of course prosperity and position but we focus on point two on wisdom.

Wisdom is your blessing when you want to help others. But we must have the desire and the love to help before God gives you the ability and wisdom to help. I like to extend the wisdom to include all the types of wisdom. We studied wisdom before. We talked about the five different types of wisdom. It could be any area. Perhaps you have a desire to help in some areas. When you started off you don't even have any talent. But because of your desire, God gives you the talent or causes you to develop talent in some area. It's powerful if you understand that the love for souls and the love to help others will bring rewards that are special. Literally everyone who had succeeded in life in some way whether they be a musician or a professional, did so because they have that something extra. Do you realize that? Suppose you are at the top of your profession you realized it is not because you are necessarily the best. Probably somebody somewhere else could have done a better job than you or have a greater talent than you. But we would find that the main

reason why you are right there at the top is because you have a greater capacity to love souls. Somebody else more talented may never reach the top because they were selfish.

## Friendship with God

Third blessing. Moses was up the Mount Sinai receiving the law. While God was giving him the law and telling him all kinds of things suddenly in Exodus 32:7 *And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down; for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. Instantly God knew. Moses didn't know because Moses was on the mountain while down there they were making the golden calf. But God told Moses, "Get down now for your people are sinning." In verse 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them; they have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people; now therefore let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; but of you I will make a great nation."* But Moses loved the people although the people don't love him as much as he loved them. God said, "I am going to destroy all of them." If Moses had any unforgiveness or anger in his heart for his people, his people would have been finished. But Moses said, "Please God don't destroy them." Don't you think he love the people? Look at what God promised him. "I will make you a great nation." But Moses said, "Please Lord don't destroy them." Something of the

love for human kind comes in. No matter how they have failed, no matter what they have done he still says, "Please Lord don't destroy them." Of course Moses was quite upset with the people. Moses came down destroyed all the idols and went back to talk with God. But some thing happened between Moses and God that day. There was a difference in God's relationship with Moses from that day.

*In Exodus 33:7-10 Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp and called it the tabernacle to meeting. Now some thing happened that day. You may not have noticed it. Moses' tent was all the time with the people, but from that day onward, his tent was pitched outside from the camp. This means that Moses now stood in the gap for the people because of his love for them. God must have instructed him to take his tent; notice in verse 7 his tent. He took his tent and he put it far from everybody. And he called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door, (Remember the tabernacle was not completed until chapter 40. Moses had just received his instructions. There was none of all those furniture built yet.) and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, every man in his tent door.*

From that day onwards, God stopped by the front door of Moses. Moses' house became God's house. There was a special relationship between them. Verse 11 *So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.* Something special took place that day. And it all started because Moses had a love for souls and would not let them be destroyed.

The third blessing when you love souls is you enter into a deep special friendship with God. God is your father, God is your friend. Now Jesus is our friend but I am talking about Almighty God the Father. We all know what it is like it depends on how close you are to your earthly father. Sometimes, you respect your earthly father that you really talk to him. He is your father but not your friend. But as you grow in life and you have a proper relationship with him, your father also becomes your friend. Now Moses had God as his friend. That pillar of cloud that they have been following is now with Moses.

To prove that this is a special blessing related to our passion and compassion for souls turn to James 2:23 *And the scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness; and he was called the friend of God.* Now Abraham also developed such a relationship because he had love and compassion for souls. I am sure you read about how Abraham interceded for wicked people like Sodom and Gomorrah, and how he helped Lot when Lot was in trouble. Look at the context of James 2 and see what he is talking about.

In the beginning of chapter 2 it says to show no partiality. When someone comes who is poor, or someone comes who is needy; and someone who had a different need in their life, he says you must help them. You must seek out to love them. And basically, he is talking about good works. In verse 14-18 *What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and is lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But some one will say, "You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.* And then he talks about Abraham having both faith and works. He talked about Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac. His faith was activated by his works. Its not just works alone. In verse 22, you see faith was working together with his works. Now you notice some thing about Abraham too - he was hospitable. When he saw the three strangers who were God and the two angels, he ran to them. He was one who loves souls and human beings. And God made him a friend of God.

The third blessing for loving souls is you become a friend of God. Because you understand God, God can come right down to you at His level. There is a special relationship between the two of you when you have a passion for souls. Your tent will be placed far out like Moses', showing that you are indeed far out in your friendship and relationship with God. Your tent is not pitched together with the rest of selfish, greedy, covetous,

**materialistic and evil human kind. But you will be among those who are like God. God is your friend.**