

PAPPA-LOVE



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CONTENTS

PART I: DISCOVERING THE FATHER'S LOVE	4
LOVE (IN GREEK)	5
SUMMARY	7
PART I: RETURNING TO THE FATHER'S LOVE	8
DEALING WITH THE SIN IN YOUR LIFE	9
EARTHLY FATHERS VS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER	13
HOW TO FORGIVE A FATHER WHO HAS THIS DISTORTION THAT HAS HARMED YOU AND HINDERED YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.	17
THE CHURCH AS THE FATHER'S HOUSE	18
JESUS – THE WORLD'S GREATEST REVIVALIST	22

PAPPA – LOVE

PART 1 – DISCOVERING THE FATHER’S LOVE

We are created with a deep desire for the love of our Heavenly Father. When we’re very young, we look for experiences of that love through our relationships with our earthly fathers. We want touch, words, hugs, etc. Love is **ACTION**.

When love was not received: The child looks for ways in which to get this kind of love. *What do I need to do in order to get my dad to love me?*

You look for what impresses you dad, Achieving well? Playing good rugby / sports? Is he “nicer” to you when you do?

PERFORMANCE – if I performed well, maybe I will get what I’m looking for.

You get a reward when you do well. When you don’t perform – silence, anger, abuse.

A **fear of failing** comes when rejection is experienced.

It can be that your mother was the one who expressed the love you so badly needed. When she died, it felt like you lost everything.

Rejection → fear of failure → when you do fail → work harder.

Meet Jesus



Holy Spirit



With His power you do the stuff of the ministry



Specialize – read all the books

Fear of failure – praying for the sick was frightening!
Why the fear?



THE FATHER’S LOVE IS NEEDED!!!

You are My son/daughter. I love you and you can never fail in My sight.

LOVE (IN GREEK)

THREE MEANINGS

1. **AGAPE** - Rom. 5:8 – theological; love from far off; unconditional love.
2. **PHILEO** – love of God that touches us; demonstrated natural affection; warm, emotional.
3. **EROS** - Physical love.

JOHN 5: 19 ... *I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the Son is able to do nothing of Himself; by the is able to do only what He sees the Father doing, for whatever the Father does is what the son does in the same way.*

Statement of His humanity: *"I can do nothing without my Father."*

I **MUST** get in touch with the Father.

JOHN 5:20 *For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does.*

"loves" – Philéo (verb)

It is only when we are secured in the Father's love that we will stay long enough to listen to what He has to say. Otherwise our insecurity just drives us to accomplish something in order to get God to love us, to get people to love us.

But Jesus didn't do that. He never tried to make anything happen in order to prove to anybody who He was.

This "love" was not just head knowledge – it was touching.

MARK 1:11 ... *You are my beloved son; in You I am well pleased.*

Jesus received the manifested philéo love of His Father



Mt. Of Transfiguration
Garden of Gethsemane.

The temptation of Satan proves that Jesus refused because he was secured in the Father's love.

To be successful in ministry you need first to be touched and secured in the Father's love.

Compassion is the fruit.

A Christian is more than just a student who studies about Jesus. A Christian is someone who **looks** like Jesus. Jesus is our model – if He needed to be filled with the Father's love, SO DO WE!

Back to the Jordan river! Jesus Holy Spirit Love of Father.

What Jesus experienced was promised to all those that followed Him.

JOHN 16:26 *At that time you will ask in My Name; and I am not saying that I will ask the Father on Your behalf, for it will be unnecessary*

You can go directly to the Father yourself in the Name of Jesus.

JOHN 16:27 *For the Father Himself tenderly loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came out from the Father.*

The Father loves you – philéo.

JOHN 17:20,25,26 *Neither for these alone do I pray, but also for all those who will ever come to believe in Me through their word and teaching. O just and righteous Father, although the world has not known You and has failed to recognize You and has never acknowledged You, I have known you continually; and thee men understand and know that You have sent Me. I have made Your Name known to them and revealed Your character and Your very Self, and I will continue to make You known, that the love which You have bestowed upon Me may be in them, felt in their hearts, and that I, Myself, may be in them.*

The Father's love draws us to Jesus so that we can be saved – this is not enough we must return to the Father to experience His love.

Jesus prayed this prayer for us and is continuing to pray this prayer until we have experienced the Father's love. That's why He came to save us.

Acts 1 – the power of the Holy Spirit.
Acts 2 - the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 5:5 *...For God's love has been poured out in our hearts ...*

Rom. 8:14 – 15 *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For the Spirit which you have now received is not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption, the Spirit producing son ship, in the bliss of which we cry, Abba! Father!*

“Adoption”: placing child in presence of parent. At the child’s coming of age ceremony he/she is brought to the parents who embrace him/her and accept him/her as their child.

1. The Holy Spirit places us in the presence of the Father and there we receive evidence that we are His children.
2. The witness of the Holy Spirit gives undeniable evidence. It was the same evidence that Jesus experienced at His baptism. The witness there was in His heart that He was the Father’s son: *“you are My beloved Son....”*
- 3 It causes us to cry out: “Abba Faith”

SUMMARY

1. The love between Jesus and the Father was philéo love demonstrating natural affection.
2. This same love was promised to His disciples.
3. Jesus prayed that for us: To reveal the Father to everyone of us.

PART II – RETURNING TO THE FATHER’S LOVE

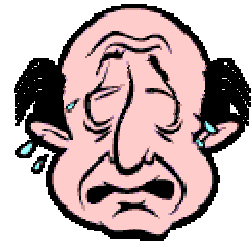
In the process of returning to the Father, when the father is drawing you, you find that often you have to **deal with certain things** in your life.

These things you have to deal with basically fall into two categories so that you are able to receive all of the Father’s love in your life:

1. run away from your sins – the sins that are causing you to fill your life with something other than the Father’s love.
2. You have to **forgive those** that have sinned against you.

The Father sent His Son to save us, but once the Son gets inside of us, He wants to lead us all the way back to the Father to receive the Father’s love – a touching love.

Some people are so hurt that they have not cried for Years. They were not allowed to feel – it was a sign of weakness (so they believed). When the Father’s love starts to break through thick wall of hardness, maybe just one tear might start to flow. Bless that tear and ask God to increase it until eyes flow like fountains!



Whenever we come into God’s presence, He wants to pour out His love on us. Many are touched, but there are also many who never experience all of the love. We are going to learn that in order to get all of the Father’s love, we will have to co-operate with God.

- We will have to turn away from our sins, and
- Forgive those who have sinned against us.

**GETTING MORE OF GOD’S LOVE IN YOUR LIFE IS A
PROCESS**

DEALING WITH THE SIN IN YOUR LIFE

In the natural:

Many of us grow up in a fatherless. We have not received the love and acceptance of a father.

In the church:

You carry your fatherless issues with you into church life. If the Father's love is not being manifested in the Church, it makes the church fatherless in a spiritual sense. People are looking for a father, but there is no-one to tell them about God the Father.

The lives of the two prodigal sons portray the two life-styles of the people who are fatherless. The result of fatherless ness is fatherless living. Their life-styles show fatherless living in both Christians and non-Christian.

Let's look at the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11.

Both sons are outside relationship with the father.

The **younger son** is living in obvious sin. He can be a Christian, but does not know the Father. He finds himself drifting until he is in obvious sin.

The **elder brother** believes that in order to earn God's love, he must work. He tries to find God through religion.

People might be in one of these two camps:

- ❶ Obvious sin, or
- ❷ Religion.

But neither of them knows God! They need to come back to the Father through Jesus Christ.



THE YOUNGER SON

He shows the characteristics of rebellious living. "**RIOTOUS LIVING**" results in unrestrained sensuality and spendthrift extravagance.

1. **Immorality (v.30);** - trying to fill the emptiness/love vacuum.
- false affection.

Satan's **counterfeit for demonstrated affection** is **immorality**. Immorality is a warm rush towards the body and emotions and some feelings of affection. It can start with some impure thought.

When a person who is empty just starts thinking of impurity and dwells on it, it gives him a false emotional rush. However, this feeling is like a vapour and quickly passes away.

The next step is lust: prolonged looking at things, a false sense of intimacy, a false sense of affection, a false rush to their emotions and body. This gives rise to promiscuity, fornication, adultery, and perversity. We try to fill this void by going from one thing to the next.

There is so much immorality in the church because the people are empty and are not experiencing the Father's love. This is a mark of being fatherless.

If a person is struggling with immorality, it means that they are **outside** the house – distant from the Father's love. They are trying to fill the need for the Father's love with false affection.

The first place where we go if we're not receiving the Father's love is immorality. If this is your problem, you need to go back to the Father!



2 Substance abuse is a second aspect of "riotous

living". This is an attempt to anaesthetize the pain of our fatherlessness or ascend above the pain to a false affirmation.

3. Materialism: The prodigal spends all his money on things in an attempt to gain affirmation from his friends.



THE RESULT: STILL EMPTY!

Now the longing for the Father becomes ever so strong! Come back and receive His love!

THE ELDER BROTHER

Jesus was really upsetting the Pharisees by showing compassion to the common people, and that on the Sabbath (healings, etc)! Jesus wanted to teach them about compassion and used the elder brother as an example.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGIOUS LIVING AS SEEN IN THE LIFE-STYLE OF THE ELDER BROTHER

His life-style was one of religious striving (v.25). He was striving to try to get something.

Perception: He had to work to get his father to bless him.

Truth: He did not have to,

People with insecurity will try to work in order to earn the Father's love. That leads to religious striving, which actually leaves them outside the Father's house. The **harder they work, the further they distance themselves from the love that they're looking for.**



Religious striving is an attempt to earn the Father's love through works. The Pharisees tried to fulfill the Law and actually believed that they did. This led to self-righteousness.

RELIGIOUS STRIVING = PERFORMANCE

ATTITUDES / FRUITS OF RELIGIOUS STRIVING

1. **Self-righteousness:** You're doing **more than others**, you're doing it better and you should be recognized.

The result: Jealousy, competition, critical, judgmental. This is fatherless living
It is sin.



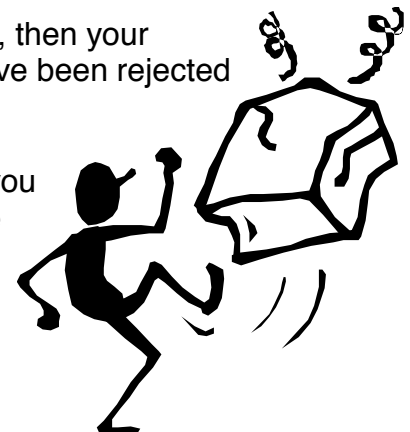
2. **Anger:** You work so hard to get the Father's love and when nothing happens, you get angry.

God says you must first get rid of your religious striving and your anger before you are able to receive His love. Anger also comes when competition is threatened by compassion.



If you've been hurt by people and you haven't forgiven them, then your anger keeps you away from the Father's love. When you have been rejected by your earthly father or an authority figure, anger results.

Anger indicates that we are **outside** the Father's house. If you forgive God, others and yourself, it **frees you to go into the Father's house to get healed.**



RETURNING TO THE FATHER

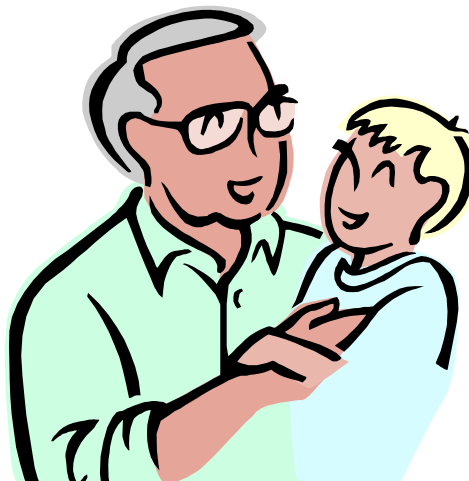
YOUNGER SON

Step 1 (v.17): He Comes to his senses. *I need the Father.*

Step 2(v. 18): He repents – changes direction. **Leave the wrong life behind and go back to the Father.**

Step 3 (v. 20): Receiving the fullness of the love of the Father.

God meets us with **compassion: philéo love** – strong affectionate feelings. The father runs to his son, throws his arms around him and kisses him. This is what he had left behind, the absence of which he tried to fill with so many other things.



EARTHLY FATHERS VS HEAVENLY FATHER

LUKE 11:11-13 *What father among you, if his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone; or if he asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good gifts [gifts that are to their advantage] to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him!*

There is a certain measure of goodness in natural fathers (giving bread, not a stone). How much more good is your Heavenly Father?

When you look at your natural father, you can through him gain a perception of God as Father. All fatherhood comes from Him. All fathers have been given that title. It is a job-description. They are to represent God as Father to their children.

Before sin came into the world, a father had the potential to do that perfectly. Sin distorted that ability.

LUKE 11:13 *You Fathers, though you are evil....*

“Evil”: - Greek: *marred / distorted by sin.*

There is a distortion in natural fathers because of sin. The problem is now that any child who looks at God the Father through this lens, gets a somewhat distorted picture.

When we're little, we put on "father glasses" as we look at our natural fathers. When we grow up, we see Father God through those lenses. If we have a good father and there is just a slight distortion, we can get in touch with the goodness of God.



BUT in many cases there is a major distortion, e.g. where the father abandoned a child at birth. The child doesn't know who his father is and his perception of the Father is: He is not there.

The degree of distortion varies for each person. It is deeply seeded in our being. It develops very early in our lives and might eventually become a major stronghold.

In the healing process, we have to deal with many things, but the main breakthrough will come once we start taking off those glasses. In Jesus we take them off and forgive our fathers for the distortion – the distortion actually being sin, because it is in fact a misrepresentation of God.

Fathers should regularly ask forgiveness for misrepresenting god the Father. They should help their children to understand that though they might be imperfect, God is perfect.

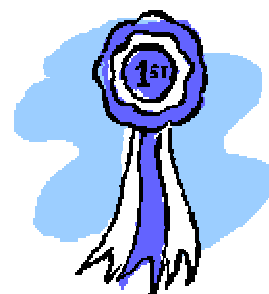
As we forgive our fathers for their sin, we apply the Blood of Jesus, which in turn removes the distortions of sin. As the power of the distortions is broken, we can start seeing God clearly.

The glasses are the primary area. “Coming to our senses” requires taking off the glasses. We are all wearing different glasses which need to be taken off in order to receive the Father’s love.

COMMON DISTORTIONS

1. PERFORMANCE ORIENTATED FATHER

He gives love as a reward for performance in areas such as chores, sports, education, etc. We live in a success-driven, competition-orientate society; therefore this type of fathering is very common. If a child gets an A, he gets a reward. If the child gets a B, the parent pulls back. He feels he has to draw back, because he cannot bless a B – if he does bless the B, he might not get the A.



ACCEPTANCE = APPROVAL

When the parent pulls back, the child gets injured and so a distance starts to grow between the parent and the child. In their adult life thee children have such difficulty in trying to get close to Father god, because of their being so tied up to performance. It is usually only when their performance starts to break down that they can get in touch and realize they must do something about it. This produces a perception of a father as one who demands religious performance. If we’re not careful, we could transfer this perception to how we relate to God.

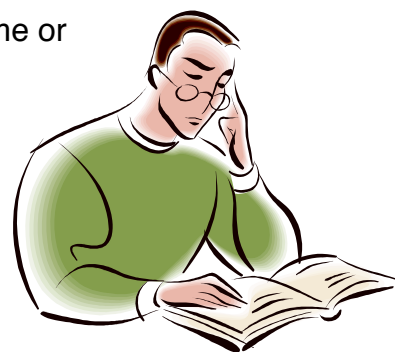
It is not unusual for performance-driven people to become **religious**, i.e. trying to earn god’s love through works. It seems to go well for a while, until they either burn out or break down.

Sometimes it is only after 20 years of marriage that we realize that a performance-driven life-style does not work. When the children start leaving home at age 18, we might realize for t he first time that, the moment they are free to do their own thing, they do not necessarily follow god, or have much relationship at home.

2. PASSIVE FATHER

He is not around home much, is not available when he is home or does not demonstrate his love. He is passive in giving love.

In contrast to performance-orientated fathers who demand a lot, constantly set standards and are even quite strict about them to some degree – being VERY MUCH involved – the passive fathers are simply not involved. They do not give demonstrative, affectionate love, are physically absent, or, when home, are hiding behind a newspaper. They do not speak, touch or express love.



Passive fathers are fathers who travel constantly (not at home often) or workaholics, alcoholics, divorces and have left home, died at an early age, or are emotionally stoic. They can fit into any of these categories. Alcoholics are self-absorbed people: not giving – always taking. The effect of this type of fathering leaves people with the sense that there is no one to love him or her.

Result / perception: The father is distant, uncaring, uninvolved, non-demonstrative. No hugs, etc. Christians from such a background have difficulty getting in touch with the Father's love.

With a performance-orientated father, the child constantly lives with the pain of rejection and fear, always trying to perform to avoid being hurt. BUT he is constantly getting in touch with it – just one word of criticism is enough to trigger everything.

The injury from having a passive father is deep, duller and more ambiguous. It is just as painful, but it can take a much longer time to surface. This type of father actually commits the sin of omission – ABANDONMENT.

THE LENSES /PERCEPTIONS OF THE CHILD

1. GOD SEEMS FAR-OFF

They do not really expect God to come through. When god does come through, they have a hard time getting in touch with that. WHY?



They are not “father-friendly” programmed. If their father never spoke words of love, never hugged them, never cried with them or made any emotional contact, they have not been programmed to be emotionally active. They struggle to have any kind of emotional response.

“I’ve done all you told me to do and yet God has not touched me.”

2. THE PUNITIVE FATHER

This father inflicts pain through some degree of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse instead of love.

Perception: Stern, harsh, unforgiving, unloving, untrustworthy.

People believe that god punishes us when we fail. Legalism is when you experience God as punitive and feel you have to perform perfectly, or else you're going to get it.

HOW TO FORGIVE A FATHER WHO HAS THIS DISTORTION THAT HAS HARMED YOU AND HINDERED YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

1. RECOGNIZE THEIR SIN

We have to face it. Many would rather deny it. We don't want to face the pain of that injury. "I know that we had problems, but he loved me the best he could and really there's nothing wrong." **We must acknowledge that they did sin against us, only then can we truly forgive them.**

2. RELEASE THEM

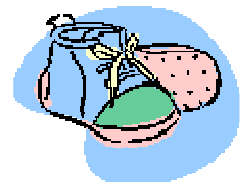
To forgive means **to release them from us judging them** any longer. To release them means we no longer want to keep looking to them to come and make it right. Some of us are frozen in time and are waiting for our fathers to come and make things right, to come and say they're sorry, to come and tell us they love us after all.

Reality is, it **does not really matter** if your father does come and say he is sorry. If he does, it is good, but it does not affect what is frozen in time. Your thoughts and emotions are buried / frozen in time. **Only God can touch that.** We can get right with our fathers in the present, but **only God can touch the past.** That is why we still need to go to God to heal the core-injuries in our lives.

Releasing them means to **stop waiting for the love and blessing** you sought from them. It means to break focus on them. Focusing on them can cause you to become just like them in negative ways – the bond of unforgiveness (John 20:23). Unforgiveness can tie you to a person: If the person has ailments or sicknesses, you could also end up suffering from the exact same stuff.

Releasing your father means you can now **fully embrace your Heavenly Father.** It also means that you can now relate to him in an adult manner, accepting him, appreciating him, etc.

If you get free, you are filled with the Father's love and **then** you can grow up.



THE CHURCH AS THE FATHER'S HOUSE

LUKE 2: 49 *Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?*

JOHN 2: 16, 17 *And He said to those who sold doves: "Take these things away! Do not make my Father's house a house of merchandise!" Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."*

Luke 15 gives us a glimpse of the Father's house and the activity going on in there – celebration and dancing!

Matt. 21:12 – 16 relates the second cleansing of the temple – once again cleaning out religion. If the Father's love does not fill the church after a cleansing, then it gets filled up with religion. The entrance to the church gets filled up with religious things and activities.

REMEMBER: Prodigals have to return through grace and compassion, not through some kind of standard they have to meet.

After Jesus cleanses the temple, the lame and the poor come in and He heals them. They could not get in before, because it was filled with religion.

RESULT: People start praising Jesus. The Pharisees are angry – just like the elder brother.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THE FATHER'S HOUSE

1. PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

The prodigal son receives a change of clothes. The Father immediately removes the wrong identities with which we were labeled:

a) By the enemy / people, e.g. stupid, a failure, abandoned, good-for-nothing, etc.

b) As a result of willfully living in sin, e.g. drunkard, immoral person, self-righteous, etc.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS FIRST (by experience!)



SERVANT (learn to give)



STEWARD (only now ministry)

SERVANTHOOD WITHOUT SONSHIP PRODUCES STRIVING

If the Father's love is not strongly manifested in the church, people do not get rid of their old identities. Some of those identities reflect painful issues in their lives that need to be healed.



**NOW GOD CAN GIVE YOU YOUR CALLING / MINISTRY –
A NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST.**

2. PURITY IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Jesus cleaned out sin and religion, which were blocking the entrance to the Father's house. A move to holiness – cleansing of the temple - must always be seen in the context of love.

The motivation towards holiness can be either

- a) Fear, or
- b) Love.

Love is obviously the best way. Once experienced, you don't want to move out of it. The moment you open up again to sin, you stop experiencing the love. That motivates you to get rid of the sin as soon as possible!

If love is not released in the midst of a move to holiness, people do not stay holy. They cannot stay motivated. In the process of pursuing holiness, we must pursue the Father.

3. POWER IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

The church is to be a place of healing. By receiving the Father's love, we also experience His compassion beginning to heal us. Then we have a reservoir of compassion within us, which makes us healers of others.



Power ministry is always attached to a demonstration of compassion.

MATT. 15:26 *It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.*

Healing and deliverance is the bread of the children.

4. PRAYER IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Jesus said that the Father's house was foremost a house of prayer. The anointing to intercede is primarily an anointing of compassion. The Father's love grips people with his heart – compassion causes you to pray.

What keeps prayer going? The reward that the Father has for those who pray in secret. We get more of God – that is the reward.



5. PRAISE IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

When the prodigals return, there is rejoicing and praise! The Father's house is a happy place.

We need God's love to break into our lives and our churches. Laughter in the Father's house should not surprise us! The Pharisees – like the elder brother – always had a problem with this. It's hard to be self-righteous and rejoice at the same time.



In the Father's house there is fullness of joy!

HEB. 13:15 *One day the Son will lead the church in singing praise to the Father*

When we sing praise and worship to the Father, His love starts being released into our lives.

The church will worship Jesus with the love of the Father. When we begin to do that, Jesus who is the Bridegroom will come to His Bride and love all the pain, sorrow and religion right out of us!

STEPS BACK TO THE FATHER

When we first got saved, Jesus came and loved us. We were so in love with Jesus: Our emotions were moved with tears, joy, warmth, etc. Then somehow it cooled off. We fell out of our first love.

Jesus encourages us to find the Father. Once you receive the Father's love and keep on receiving it, then you would know the Father's heart for Jesus, and you would never want to stop loving Jesus.

The key for not falling out of love with Jesus is to keep on receiving the Father's love. The Father's love secures you.



6. PROCLAIMING THE MESSAGE OF THE FATHER'S HOUSE

The message of the Father's house – the message of the Father's compassion – must be broadcasted to the prodigals. When the prodigals hear that the Father's house has been filled with His compassion and love, they start coming back home.

Spiritual gifts are the tools of the trade to build the Father's house. Our purpose in the church should be to build the Father's house.



Revival comes!

Great evangelism follows!

Power is poured out and so is love!

JESUS – THE WORLD’S GREATEST REVIVALIST

All starts at the river Jordan – Jesus shows us the starting point for following Him. He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness and fully identify with mankind.

We step into the river of the remission of all our sins, asking Jesus to be our Saviour. That is what makes us Christians. We believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of all our sins.

However, we can't just stay in the river, we must get out and move on beyond just being saved. We must begin to follow Jesus.

What made Jesus a revivalist?

COMPASSION = POWER IN LOVE

To bring revival you must have the anointing of love / compassion and power. To follow Jesus means you have to become a revivalist.

