

- > **Great Day**.... We are so glad that you have joined us here today, to hear what the Lord really wants us to hear.
- This message segment is brought to you by: **Discovery Crossroads Ministries**.... a ministry that truly believes:
 "Where dead-ends, can & do - become alive again!"
 ...(*When we connect with God, His Life flows into us!*)
- > **As Christian churches** begin to move into the liturgical season of "**Easter**" - I believe it is a good time to speak about what it is to: **NOT let** our love **FOR GOD** run out, or vanish from within our hearts!
- **Ephesians 3:17b-19**, *"I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep **the love of Christ** is, 19 and to know **this love** that surpasses knowledge - that **you may be filled to the measure** of all the fullness of God."*^{NIV} (Paul wanted the Church of Ephesus to be **SO** "*rooted & established*" in God's Love, that they would Never **go dry!** **Also**, Paul wanted his readers to be **FILLED** with God's Love **TO** them, so that they in-turn could Love **GOD** back! **1 John 4:19** says, "**We love, because He (GOD) first loved us!**")/(can't love without God)

- **Now**, one of the "**Fruit of The Spirit**" is "**Love**" – which means: We should "**STAY**" FILLED with God's Special Love, **AS LONG AS** we are "**STAYING**" in a great relationship with God! **Romans 5:5b** affirms this: "*God's love has been **poured out into our hearts**, through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*" NIV (*The Holy Spirit **pours** love into our hearts!*)
- **BUT**, as it is, we "**DON'T STAY**" close to Him – instead we "**STRAY AWAY**" from God, and His Love – which causes us to **GO DRY on Love**. The Bible uses the term "**pinning**", often. That word means: "**To Go Dry**" and "**To Waste Away**". It carries the same constructs as the word "**Languish**", which means: "**To wither or fade**". If we focus the words "**pinning & languish**", on **God's Love TO US** - we could see how it is possible for God's Love **IN US**, to "**Go Dry**"-"**Waste Away**".
- **Please know** that this really does happen (*to any of us*) from time to time, in our "**Love-life**" with God. **Isaiah 53:6** says it is so, "***All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths, to follow our own.***" **Have you ever felt like: the "Burning Hot" Love of God (that once Burned Strongly, in your heart) - seemed to be Gone, or NOT AS HOT AS IT ONCE WAS?** (*It CAN, and DOES, happen!*)
- > **And so** the message title today is: "**Ran It Out of Gas Again**". That title, congers up the notion of: "**Running your car or**

truck "Out of Gas", and having to leave it on the side of the road". Has anyone ever had that happen to them?

-- **Today**, I want us to think about: How the car, or truck's "gas-tank", might help us to see better - How the "love-tank" works, that resides in our heart...(I use the term "love-tank" from **Dr. Gary Chapman's** book: "The 5 Love Languages")

-- **So**, I'm trying to generate the thought that: to "Run Out of Heart-fuel" (**God's Love**), could mean that your heart has "a leak" in its "holding tank"....(a "love-leak", if you will...) ...and having a leak in your "love-tank" (*with No refills*), can make that tank go dry!...("the well can go dry").

....To take the thought deeper:.... Does anyone here think that it is OK, for an airplane's fuel tanks to go Empty (Dry) - while it is still flying?..... **OK then**, Is it OK for a Christian to RUN OUT OF LOVE for God, while they still call themselves a Christian?... Yeah, in the immortal words of the **apostle James**, "**That ought NOT to be!**" - esp. if we are SUPPOSED TO "STAY" FILLED with the Love of Jesus Christ, as **Ephesians 3:19** says we should....(I mean: Running out of love for God, is NOT like running out of eggs)

.....And I think, the hard thing is: Sometimes, people DO NOT even **KNOW** that: their heart is "LOW" on Love **for God!**

I mean: it's easy to Speed through life, and take NO NOTICE of the gas gauge! **Seriously**, look at your Personal "Gauge of Love" for God, right now - **What level of Love do you THINK that you have for Him, at this very moment?**

-- **Come on**... **WHAT** makes the gas in our **car/truck**, **RUN OUT and GO EMPTY?** Barring a hole in the tank... our car or truck "Runs Out of Gas", because **WE**: **drove past the gas station – thinking that we had enough fuel in the tank....** **But**, the car sitting on the side of the road, and us walking home - says, "**NO, NO, you didn't have enough gas in the tank!**".....(**Goodness**, we can **Neglect** the **gas-gauge**, and **DRIVE PAST** the gas-station.... And, we can **Neglect** our **Love-connection** to Jesus & **Go Dry!**)

-- **WHAT** makes our love **for God** **RUN OUT (or, Leak), and GO EMPTY?** **Oh, just about a million things!** There are so many things in this world, that causes us to **Neglect** our "**Love-connection**" to Jesus. **Reasons** that people **QUIT** loving God: **1)** They Feel Unfulfilled in their faith...(it does nothing FOR THEM). **2)** They don't Understand God's Word... ..(on their own, they cannot figure it out – we all need a spiritual-mentor). **3)** God did not answer their prayers, as they wanted them...(they wanted the answer, THEIR WAY). **4)** Traumas came to their life, and they Couldn't understand

why God didn't protect them from it...(they thought that once they became a Christian, life would be trouble-free). **5)** They got Frustrated with Church issues, and so they turned their back on God...(they saw the same Ugly-side of humanity, in the church - just as they saw it **outside** the church... they saw No difference!)-(church-hurt, also hurt love to God).

6) They continued to Struggle with Personal sin, and they blame God for not helping them get past it...(Yes, God was supposed to be the "Magic sin-stopper" for them - they didn't realize that: their sins were their issue to Deal with, and Die to). **7)** They still Question God's existence...(you cannot love something, or someone, if you Question their existence - How do you love something, or someone, who is Not there? You don't). **8)** They become Complacent in their spiritual walk (practices), and Quit growing in their faith...
...(Love has to Grow - or it Withers, goes Dry, and Dies - believers have to Cultivate love for God, every single day - Complacency kills love).

9) They try to Divide their love between God and many other things, or people...(God is a Jealous God, and He is Not into splitting love with another thing, or person - He would rather step back & get out of the way, and let us have the other love of our life - than to just have a half-love life with us -(see Romans 1:24 on that!)
God has a "Will Not Compete Clause", in His love-relationship Contract with us)

...These "**Love-killers**", and many others - are some of the reasons why our "**love-tanks**", **Go Dry for God**.

-- **Jesus** gives us one **sure thing**, that causes **Neglect** of our "**Love-Connection**" with God: **John 15:5-6**, "*5 I am the vine; you are the branches. **If you remain in me and I in you (not neglect), you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me (that's neglect), you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.***" NIV ...(**now**: **Remaining** connected to Jesus, keeps us from **Going Dry, Withering & Falling Out of Love with God**.)

> **So**, **My aim today** is to **REMIND us** of: what **the Fuel of God (His Love)** looks like, stirring around in our hearts!

-- **Here's the fuel**: **Isaiah 53:4-6**, "*4 It was **our weaknesses** he carried - it was **our sorrows** (or, **our disease of sin**) that weighed him down..... And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5 **But, he was pierced - for our rebellion. he was crushed - for our sins. He was beaten - so we could be whole. He was whipped - so we could be healed.** 6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. **We** have left God's paths to follow our own. **Yet, the Lord laid on him - the sins of us all.***" NLT

....**And Why did God pour His wrath out on Jesus, for us?**...

Because, "God so **loved the world** (that's **US**), that He gave His only begotten Son – that whosoever believes in Him, shall **NOT** perish, but have everlasting life!"

* (God's Unconditional Love for us, is our **Love-fuel**)

*-- **When you get this**, (I mean, **really** get this) - you can **FEEL**

Jesus' "**Fuel of Love**", going deep into your soul, FILLING you up –(like: topping off your car's tank, at the gas-pump!)

The Love of God, that He POURS into our hearts (**to Love Him & others**) – can be **Felt** in a connection, that literally "**Shakes our very soul/being**"...(it's **Unmistakable**)

> **The great** Gospel Hymn, "**O sacred head now wounded**"

says this, "**O sacred head now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down. Now scornfully surrounded, with thorns thine only crown. How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn. How does that visage languish, which once was bright as morn? What thou, my Lord, hast suffered, was all for sinners' gain. Oh, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior, 'tis I deserve thy place. Look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace. What language shall I borrow, to thank thee, dearest Friend. For this, thy dying sorrow, thy pity without**

end? *Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be - Lord, let me Never, Never, OUTLIVE MY LOVE - TO THEE!"*

a) "How does that visage languish, which once was bright as morn?" Oh goodness friends, the author is asking US: How the image of the suffering Face of Jesus, on cross (**for US**) – could **languish** (*could wither & fade away*) from our minds & hearts? He said it was **ONCE an image**, that burned bright as the morning sun, in our hearts! How, Why, does this image leave us?

b) "and should I Fainting be - Lord, let me Never, Never, **OUTLIVE MY LOVE – TO THEE!**" Wow, the author is literally praying for God's Help, to **KEEP HIM FROM LIVING LONGER**, than his Love for God lasts! Goodness gracious, He is saying that: he would **rather die**, than let his Love FOR GOD run out (*fade, wither, go dry*)! Shouldn't we also ASK GOD, to KEEP His Love continuously flowing into our hearts?

- I mean: even as I wrote these words, I **begged God** to **NOT LET** my love **FOR HIM** to run out, BEFORE I die!

-- Folks, we **CAN** "**Faint**" in our love for God.... we **CAN**

"**Outlive**" our love to God.... **But**, asking God to "**NEVER LET that happen to us**", is a **Prayer of Immediacy!**

- **The Bee Gees** sang in one of their songs, "***What are we gonna do, if we lose that fire (Love)?***" **Well**, sweet friends, **this message** is the "**gas-station**".... **God** is the "**Gas-pump**".... and **Jesus** is the "**Fuel**".
- **Right now**, **let** the Love of Jesus Christ, **FILL** your heart's "**love-tank**", to the bream! **Commit to Him**, that you Never want to "**Outlive**" your love to Him, causing you to go Empty for Him. **Remember now**, His loving, yet suffering, Face upon the cross - **FOR YOU!**
- ...(**Envision His Face now**... beaten – battered – a crown of thorns pushed into His Head – bleeding - lungs filling up with fluid, and unable to breath – and still, asking the Father to *Forgive US, for not knowing what we do!*)
- **God is waiting to make a Connection with you**.... **Please**, turn to Him in prayer now, and get a "**Love-Refill**" from His Never-ending flow (*gas-station*) of Love!
-Hear my closing prayer for you – straight out of God's Word, found in **2 Thessalonians 3:5**, "***May the Lord DIRECT your hearts, INTO the love of God!***".....(*that word "Direct" means that we are: asking God to remove every **Obstacle**, that stands in our way – of receiving a Full Flow of His Love, into our hearts!*)

Discovery questions:

- 1) In Ephesians 3:17-19, what does it mean to be "**Rooted and Established**" in love – love that is as wide, long, high & deep as Christ's love?
- 2) As you take a new look at Romans 5:5b, how do you envision "**God's love being POURED into your heart**"? Is God's POURING into our hearts a one-time thing, or is it supposed to be a perpetual thing? How: Are there conditions on that POURING?
- 3) Is there really a connection between STAYING close in relationship with Jesus, and STAYING full of His Love? What does that Connection look like? How do "YOU" Keep the Connection with Him?
- 4) Isaiah 53:6 says that, "**All of us, like sheep, HAVE strayed away from God** and His Good paths" – So how hard is it to Keep a "**Perpetual-Connection**" to Jesus Christ?
- 5) The vehicles that we drive around in have some form of fuel "**storage-tank**" (*whether it be: gas or battery fuel*). Likewise, the message stated that our heart has a "**storage-tank**" too - a "storage-tank" to hold love. But, do you know how much love your heart is really holding FOR GOD right now? Is it Full, Empty, or somewhere in the middle?

- 6)** In the message, we spoke of the dangers of flying in an airplane and running out of gas – but can't we (*believers*) also run out of love FOR GOD? Have "YOU" ever run out of gas (*love*) FOR GOD? Do you know WHY you ran out of love FOR HIM? Seriously, what LEVEL of love do you think that you have FOR GOD, right now?
- 7)** Can the "Once saved always saved" motto, keep you FILLED with love FOR GOD, or can it possibly cause you to go EMPTY on love FOR HIM? (*think deeply on this... that quote could give you a false-sense of security... a loss of Connection to Christ, could cause you to Go Dry on His love – as well as, keep you from being able to love God back! see John 15:5-6*)
- 8)** What kind of things, in this world, can make us (YOU) God Dry on your love FOR GOD? Can you say that you have experienced things in the past or present, that have sought to take you love FOR GOD away?
- 9)** Seriously, how tragic is it to LOSE sight of our love FOR GOD, and quit loving Him - and often without even knowing it?
- 10)** This message spoke of our love FOR GOD, in the terms of "**Love-fuel**". We spoke of how we CAN run out of "Love-fuel" FOR GOD. But what does the "Love-fuel" look like? Isaiah 53:4-6 tells us exactly what the "Love-fuel" is, that we are supposed to STAY full of – it is the "**Image of the Face**"

of Christ on the cross, dying for you & me", that we are to **STAY full of!** (*please, refamiliarize yourselves with Isaiah 53:6 over & over again!*)

- 11)** Doesn't John 3:16-17 give us the best Image of the "Love-fuel" that we are to STAY tanked up on? If God loves US so much (*with UNFAILING – NEVER-ENDING – UNCONDITIONAL – LOVE*), then He has modelled for us the kind of love that we are to STAY full of to offer back TO HIM!
- 12)** 1 John 4:19 tells us, "**We love, because God FIRST loved us**"! So, can you see the importance of maintaining a Close-Connection to Jesus – so that His Love flows to us, making it possible for it to flow back TO HIM? Apart from that Connection, there is NO WAY that any of us can love Him back!
- * Not a question here, but a prayer & a blessing for you – straight out of 2 Thessalonians 3:5, "**May the Lord (*Himself*), direct your hearts INTO the love of God!**"