



Dear Neighbour,

During my studies of the Book of Acts, it came to my attention that the words 'love, loved, loving' do not appear anywhere in the twenty eight chapters. This puzzled me. I asked God to explain why these words were so conspicuous by their absence in a book that records the birth of the Christian church and the spreading of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome. God's answer both surprised and challenged me.

Later in the week the Holy Spirit dropped these words into my heart and mind, **“Love is an action”** . The fifth book of the New Testament is called *The Acts of the Apostles* because the apostles' lives were a *demonstration* of love – making the word 'love' unnecessary. One of the first things we do when witnessing is to tell people that God loves them – maybe we should follow their example and *show* more love thereby making our words unnecessary?

This revelation has greatly impacted my life. The words “I love you” are so easy to say, but I think in our society we rely too much on our words to one another. Our words should just *confir*

m our
actions. When we express love verbally, but fail to follow through with the appropriate actions, we nullify our words. Jesus Christ did not just tell us He loves us, but He *demonstrates* His love for us.

...
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

(Romans 5:8). Notice that 'demonstrates' is in the present tense. The love of Christ is being revealed to you today because He rose from the dead and is alive.

During the past week I had a follow-up lesson from the Lord on this subject. Recently a friend asked me to pray for someone who had an urgent need in their life. I agreed, but on two occasions I just found it impossible to pray. Again, I could not understand what the problem was, until I felt God say to me in my spirit, "Don't PRAY for something when it is in your power to DO something." Immediately I thought of the many people directly connected to this person who could and should help in the situation. Nevertheless, I felt God was pressing me to do something. To cut a long story short, my husband and I decided to do what we could to help and a miracle followed our actions. God intervened and has showered His abundant supply on that person and completely eradicated the whole problem. Love is an action. Sometimes it may be God's will for us to pray for someone, but I have been greatly challenged concerning the fact that as Christians **we have been blessed to be a blessing**. Let's first check if there is something we can do, before asking God to intervene. I can assure you that even the smallest gesture on your part will be followed by the full support of heaven.

Warren Wiersbe, a Christian preacher and writer, said he sometimes wishes that he had preached better sermons. I sometimes wish that I had written better letters, but we both agree that we could never preach a better message than the gospel of Jesus Christ:

Jesus died so that your sins could be forgiven and He rose from the dead to assure you that your death will be followed by a glorious reunion with Him for eternity. ***God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. Real love isn't our love for God, but his love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven*** (1 John 4:9-10 CEV).

Respond to the love of God today and He will use you to be a blessing to your world in both word and deeds. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. It is a free and glorious gift to

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each person. However, once you have become a true child of God, His love is able to flow naturally through you to those with whom you come into contact.

x Libby