

1

“The love of Christ compels us”

(see 2 Cor 5:14-20)



Launch into loving!

Any Word of Life we try to live produces the same effects. It **changes our lives and puts into our hearts the desire to help others in all their needs**, serving everyone as much as we can. This is logical because by welcoming the Word and living it, Jesus is born in us and we learn to act like him.

What urged St. Paul to announce the Gospel and dedicate himself to building unity in the first Christian communities was his deep, personal experience with Jesus.

He felt loved by Jesus, who had entered his life to the point that nothing and no one would ever be able to separate him from Jesus.

Does the fact of being loved by Jesus push us to love concretely with the same zeal Paul had?

If we have truly experienced Jesus’ love, we cannot fail to love others and **courageously enter places where there is division**, conflict and hatred so as to bring harmony, peace and unity.

Love enables us **to overcome every obstacle** and really connect with people, understanding them, sharing their lives and working together to find solutions to every problem they might have.

(the question)



{ When was a moment that I felt loved by Jesus? }

(work in progress)



We can overcome every obstacle by making every difficulty a launching pad to throw ourselves into loving everyone around us.

Fabio Ciardi
Adattamento Centro Gen3



(interview)

“When I was a teenager, I didn’t have any relationship with God. Then I discovered him in a very special way. I was 16 years old when my father heard that he had an incurable disease. I felt a huge empty spot in my heart.

My dad had only a few months to live and I wanted him to feel how much I loved him. I have to say that it wasn’t easy because I wasn’t used to loving other people in concrete ways.

About the same time I met the Teens for Unity of the Focolare Movement. One of them, whose name was Mario, asked me when I would be going to visit my dad and offered to go with me. Before we went into the hospital, he asked me if my dad liked ice cream. He got ice cream for the three of us as his gift!

On the way home, I asked him why he had done that. He answered, “It that were my dad, I would like someone to share the pain with me.” That’s when I started to love my father in the way that he would like to be loved. One day I got to his room and my dad gave me a package. He told me, “This is for all the love you’ve given me!” It was a moment of special joy.

Three days later my dad died, but the biggest gift he gave me was to rediscover my relationship with God. In fact, I had started praying with him and I noticed that I now had a personal relationship with Jesus.

Agostino

(my notes)



1