Motivated by God's Love

Pastor Tony's word for the Church in 2019 is Breakthrough. Breakthrough comes through an increase in the supernatural activity of God's Kingdom. Three components of Supernatural activity:

Mindset (Empowered Church)
Atmosphere (Supernatural)
Attitude (Shameless Audacity, Determination, Persistence)

Ulterior motive of the Elders for COTR: Become doers of the Word of God, so that your life and those around you would be transformed by the Power of God's Love in body, mind, and spirit! James 1:22, Rom 12:2

The above will happen as the Lord's Prayer is realized: Mt 6:9 "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven". What the Kingdom looks like:

Healing and deliverance (Mt 10:8) Power (1 Cor 4:20) Righteousness, Peace, Joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17) Love (1 Cor 13:4-8)

Paradigm Shift – Self-centered/temporal vs. Love (Agape)/Eternal Focus

Paradigm – a theory or group of ideas about how something should be done, made, or thought about.

Jesus was the great paradigm shifter – Mt 5: 21-48, Sermon on the Mount: "you have heard it said..." Murder vs. anger. Eye for an eye/tooth for tooth vs. turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, give to those who ask. Love your neighbor/hate your enemy vs. love your enemy and pray for your persecutors. (Shift from actions to intentions of the heart.)

The New Commandment – the ultimate Paradigm shift: Jn 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Old Testament – Love your neighbor as yourself vs. New Testament Love your neighbor as Jesus would. (Natural Love vs. Supernatural Love)

How to walk in Supernatural Agape Love

1. Denying self – Jn 14:15, Mt 16:24 – deny self, pickup cross and follow Jesus

- 2. Abiding in Jesus Jn 15:1-10 keeping His commandments= abiding in His love which produces much fruit and joy!
- 3. Preferring others Phil 2:1-4 in selflessness and humility lookout for others more than yourself.

Using the "Love Quotient" to measure our Love Walk

Fruit of the Spirit Man vs. the Fruit of the Natural/Flesh Man – Gal 5:16-25 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires, if we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

The Love Quotient must always be greater than 1 but the higher the better! Scriptures to keep us on target: Gal 2:20 – crucified with Christ, 2 Cor 5:17 – New creations in Christ, Rom 12:2 – transformed by a renewed mind, Eph 3:17 – rooted and grounded in love.

We MUST be motivated by Love not Fear! 1 John 4:18-19 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us.

The standard for God's Love (Agape) – 1 Cor 13:4-8 - Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. (Beatles song "All you need is Love" plays and Brian reveals All you need is Love t-shirt and "Love" glasses)