

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Advent is a 4-Sunday journey representing the birth of the Christ within us. The first week of Advent we talked about Faith, last week Peace, this week Love and next week Joy. It is our nature to love, the Christ potential is birthed within us, just as Mary birthed Jesus. Jesus continually and unconditionally gave love into the world, regardless of how he was treated.

Love is one of the greatest transforming powers in the universe. While we associate love with the warm, affectionate emotional response we feel for others, Unity's co-founder Charles Fillmore wrote this about Love in his book Twelve Powers of Man: Gravity is mortal man's name for love. By the invisible arms of love we are held tight to earth's prolific bosom.

When we face challenges in life, it is easy to fall into a belief that we are separated from the power and presence called God. Though we may feel separate, we can never be separate from God. Charles Fillmore said that if God could separate itself from any part of the universe, even for an instant, that part would cease to exist. God is the substance of the universe.

Love is the relentless energy which keeps us connected to planet Earth and maintains the orbits of all celestial bodies. Love keeps us unified with the Source of all. It is not always easy to love. To truly love we must move beyond the surface and appearances of life to recognize our connection to the Source of all and to each expression of that Source. To deeply love we do not have to tolerate abuse, undesirable behavior or life-negating actions. Such behaviors and actions give us the opportunity to set boundaries and to bring enlightenment. Remember, the enemy is ignorance, not the person.

We do not have to create love. John wrote, *God is love.* (1 John 4:9) Love is a divine principle and God is the only source.

God is love, and we can be the presence of love by letting God-love flow through us to bless the world and to draw our good to us. To be loving, we have to look at life more deeply. Nothing has ever changed in this world until someone looked beyond appearances, looked within and saw a dream, found inspiration and then demonstrated the courage to bring it out into the light of day and made a difference.

To truly love, you must do it consciously. To experience love requires in-sight, and the desire to see beyond human personality. People have personality, and they manifest it in a variety of ways. Will you look deeply enough to see and draw out the Image-likeness of God that is within them, and within you? Will you look beyond the true enemy, ignorance, and call out the Divine Spirit behind the mask? Real love is irresistible because it is God. When we are loving, we are spiritual magnets that draw the good out of others and attract universal good to us.

*Affirm: Love is my natural state. I give love freely and receive love gratefully.*