



# HOW TO WALK IN *Divine Love*

BY MAC AND LYNNE HAMMOND

**WMA** WINNER'S MINUTE  
With Mac Hammond

*Mac:* One important key to compatibility within your marriage is divine love. An environment of divine love will strengthen and grow any marriage.

My wife is the expert in our family on love. She's managed to love me for well over 50 years in spite of some of the stuff I've done, so I know she has a lot to impart about the love of God.

*Lynne:* When I got saved, I knew that the only way to modify my behavior was going to be through the Word of God. So I read the Bible diligently, and the first thing I learned was in 1 John. It said that the New Testament commandment is to believe on the name of Jesus and to love one another. Then I found another scripture that said if you would love, you would be fulfilling all the laws of God. Well, I thought, "I tell you what... this is easy. I'll just walk in love."

I quickly found out that walking in love wasn't as easy as I had thought. Seemingly every morning before ten, I would have already stepped out of my love walk. So I realized there had to be something more to this. I had a Jewish friend and she told me that there were 640 laws that the Jews had to obey. She asked me, "How many laws do you have to obey as a Christian?"

"One."

"What is it?"

I replied, "It's the law of love. We have to walk in love."

She dryly answered, "Well, I'd rather try and obey 640 laws rather than that just one."

The truth is, we can walk in the love of God. You may ask, "How?"

Number one: Get saved. Did you know that you can't walk in divine love if you aren't born again? Once we are born again, the love of God is placed inside our hearts (Romans 5:5). I don't know how He does it, but when you become saved, God places His love on the inside of you.

Even while understanding that truth, you may not have a clue as to how to get it out of you. You may be mean and hateful and may have just fought with your wife, but if you're a born-again Christian, you can walk in the love of God. What you've got to do is learn how to get that love inside of you out.

The second thing you're going to have to do is get 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 down inside your heart. These verses, particularly in the Amplified Bible, give you a clear definition of how God's love acts. First Corinthians 13:4–8 begins, "Love endures long and is patient and kind..."

Human love can endure long, but it certainly isn't patient and kind in the process. Natural love always wants everybody to know what it's putting up with: "I tell you, you don't know about that man I live with. You just don't know what I put up with," or "My wife, she nags me all day long..."

That's human love. Divine love endures long and is patient and kind while it's enduring. Verse four continues, "Love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vain-glorious, does not display itself haughtily."

Love isn't jealous. When you're acting jealous, what is that? The flesh. *You see her? How come she got that promotion? Don't you see me, Lord? I've been waiting for my promotion for years. How come she got that promotion? I've been just as faithful.*

Remember what we said earlier? The love of God is on the inside of you. You just have to reach down and let it come out by faith. You do so by speaking it with your mouth. Say to yourself, "Love endures long. Love is patient and kind. Love never is jealous." Say it over and over again. Get some three by five index cards and write on them the part you're having trouble with. Keep it with you. Confess it. Then watch the Word of God change you.

Verse five says, "It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride)."

If you have pride in your life, you are in for a puncture and a great big fall (Proverbs 16:18). Divine love is never prideful.

First Corinthians 13 continues, "It is not rude (unmannerly)...." Some Christians say, "Well, I've always been rude. That's just my personality to be rude." It may be your personality, but even so, your personality needs to be overcome by the love of God. You don't have to stay rude for the love of God is not rude.

What else do we need to know about love? "...and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking."

"I have my rights." It's common to hear this during counseling sessions. It even happens to the couple who walked down the aisle, head over heels in love. One month after their wedding, they'll come in for counseling. She says, "I have my rights." He says, "Well, I have my rights." If something doesn't change, they'll be getting a divorce because of their "rights." But as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians, divine love never wants its own rights; it always wants to bless somebody else.

## A SMOKE DETECTOR AND A WEENIE ROASTER

When I first began meditating on 1 Corinthians 13:4–8, I thought I was doing pretty good up until this point. Then I read the next part: “[Love] is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].”

I picked up my Bible and went, “Wait a minute, something is wrong. Lord, this can’t be right. Love is not touchy? It doesn’t keep a record of wrongs?” I mean, my silver-haired, wonderful Christian grandma was touchy. My momma was touchy; all my aunts were touchies. I came from a whole line of touchies. On top of that, all of them kept great records. They remembered what everybody had done to them from generations way back.

I looked at this and knew I was in trouble. Big trouble.

I’ll tell you how much trouble I was in by telling you about our first anniversary. But before I do, let me warn you husbands and future husbands—never, ever give your wife anything that she needs as a present. Do you hear me? Never give your wife a broom. Never give your wife a mop. And never give your wife a vacuum cleaner.

We had waited for this day for so long. Mac was in pilot training, so we decided we’d take a Friday afternoon off and go up to Sea Island, Georgia. We saved up our money to go, and we were so happy when the trip finally came.

When we were driving to our destination, I could see that there were two anniversary presents on the back seat for me. I had visions that those boxes contained a beautiful dress and a diamond ring. After we arrived at the hotel, I started to open my gifts. I couldn’t believe it. I thought Mac was playing a joke on me because when I opened the first box, there inside was a weenie roaster.

Just so you understand what I was going through, let me tell you about weenie roasters. I hate hot dogs. Mac loved hot dogs. I about gagged whenever I had to cook a hot dog for him. The reason I hated hot dogs so badly was because someone told me when I was a little girl that wieners were made out of ground up pigs’ eyes. So I hated hot dogs. The other gift wasn’t that much better—when I opened the other box, I found a smoke detector inside.

There are two sides to every story, so I’ll let my husband tell you why he got these particular presents.

*Mac:* I was a Second Lieutenant. You don’t make a lot of money as a Second Lieutenant and so we were buying hot dogs instead of hamburgers. Lynne didn’t like them so she didn’t take much



care about how she fixed them. She'd boil them and they'd burst and they wouldn't fit in the bun. So from my perspective, we needed a weenie roaster! I bought the smoke detector simply because it was the latest invention that came on the market. I thought it would be a good thing to have. I was wrong. Let's just say that I've never made that mistake again. Ever!

*Lynne:* As I said, divine love doesn't take an account of the evil done to it, yet I wasn't walking in that part of divine love yet. Every time I had an opportunity, I would bring that up to him for five years. I would remind him of the weenie roaster and the smoke detector that he gave me as an anniversary gift. As I said before, I was in big trouble. I was one of the touchiest people you had ever seen. So I worked to change that in me by writing down on index cards "Love is not touchy. Love is not fretful or resentful. Love never takes account of an evil done to it nor does it even notice a suffered wrong."

I put the cards in strategic places of attack. For instance, I put one in my car because I was often tempted to get into the flesh there. I'll give you an example. One day, I picked up my kids from school. They hopped into the car and after a quick hello they said, "I'm starving. What's for dinner?" Isn't that always the first thing they say?

When I told them we were having meatloaf, all three of them in unison fell back into their seats with their eyes rolling back into their heads. My oldest child was the most dramatic of my kids, and he would grab his throat and start gagging, "Ahhh meatloaf. I hate meatloaf. It's like dog food." My second son, who was a little more controlled and tried to act more mature, would cross his legs, slam his schoolbooks down, and say, "I guess I just won't be eating dinner tonight. I was going to have Johnny over, but even now I won't be eating." Our youngest one—she was kind of the whiner—would say in a weepy voice, "Meatloaf... I'm so hungry and I hate meatloaf. It has oatmeal in it and onions and I hate it. Sally always gets pizza at her house..." When my kids went on like that, I had to remember that love is not touchy, fretful, or resentful. It never notices a suffered wrong. You can see why I put them on the dashboard in the car!

## COFFEE, CRACKERS, AND A DOSE OF DIVINE LOVE

Now the worst place of attack was my kitchen. So I took my scriptures and put those index cards everywhere. And wouldn't you know it, the worst tester of my love was my darling husband. We are sweethearts, and I love him dearly, but he truly tested my love. That's why I put up all those little cards in my kitchen. I would say them all day, every day, over and over and over again. Over time, I began to change and the breakthrough in my behavior began to come.

I remember one night Mac came in for dinner, and my love walk was tested. I had made a big pot of soup. Now in the South, where Mac and I are from, it takes all day to make soup. I labored all day over this soup, tasting every few bites to see how it was. He came in from work, walked

over to the stove, and casually said, “Hmmm, what’s for dinner?”

He lifted the lid, looked in, and replied, “What’s in this soup anyway?”

As I felt myself slipping out of my love walk, I remembered the scriptures. Instead of taking offense at his question, I calmly let him know what some of the ingredients were. As we sat down to the table, another attack came! While eating the soup that I had lovingly labored all day to make, he said, “You know, my mother makes awfully good soup. You should call my mother and ask her what she puts in her soup.”

*Mac:* Can you believe I said that? I really was that stupid!

*Lynne:* Of course, he knows now that wasn’t the most thoughtful thing to say. Thankfully, the love of God started to move in me and I acted on the Word. I said, “You know what? I should call her. That would be a good idea. Does she make some kind of soup that you like better than this? I want to be a good wife to you and bless you with soup that you like.” (Before I was saved, you know what I would have said? “Let me tell you what you can do with the soup....”)

There was a night in particular that sticks out to me as a time when the love of God began to bubble out of me. I had a PTA meeting at 6:30 at night. Mac came home at 5:30 in the evening. I was kind of in a rush to get ready to go to the meeting. That afternoon was the first cold snap we’d had, so I made chili. I even went so far as to make a separate pot of chili for him that had hot sauce in it, because he likes hot chili, but the rest of us don’t. I thought, He will be so happy. I decided to make him cornbread as well. He just loved my cornbread, and I knew he would be so blessed by it.

So he came in, sat down, and just as we were about to eat, he said, “Where are the crackers?” I said, “Honey, we don’t have any crackers tonight. I made you some cornbread.”

He replied, “I just don’t feel like cornbread tonight.”

You know what? I didn’t even have to get my index card out. Something started to happen inside me. The love of God started to well up on the inside of me—I kid you not—and I had this overwhelming desire to get in my car, go to the grocery store, and buy that man some crackers.

I said, “Honey, I want you to have some crackers. I’m going to the store.”

“Oh no, you don’t have to go to the store.” He said, “I know you’re going to be late for your meeting if you go to the store.”

“No, I’ve got to get you some crackers.”

As I’m walking out on my mission to get crackers, he said, “By the way, we’re out of coffee, too.”

I said, “Okay!”

Guess what was on special at the store? Crackers and coffee!

Do you see how you walk in love? You put the Word of God in your heart and in your mouth. You say it over and over and believe it in your heart. It will become part of your actions.

Verses 6–8 of 1 Corinthians 13 says, “It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].”

*Mac:* I serve God today because of the changes I saw in my wife. I watched her change over a year and a half or so, and I saw the difference that God made in her life. Watching her change made me hungry for what she had.

There is one other aspect of love I want to emphasize and that is the Greek word agape. In the Greek New Testament, we see 150–160 references to the word love. All of them except for 15 are the word agape or a derivative of it. Agape is the divine love that Lynne’s been describing; it’s a love that gives. It is not contingent upon what somebody else does. It is a pattern of life based on giving to other people.

When you give this divine love to your spouse, it will change you, and it will change your marriage!

The essence of a successful relationship is two people who understand the need to give. They understand the need to change a pattern of life that has formally been self-centered and begin to focus it outward to other people.

The natural mind says, “If I give to others, who is going to look after my interests?” I’ll tell you who will—God. He’ll transform your relationships in such a way that you won’t be able to believe you didn’t do this before. That’s divine love—the environment you need to build in order to strengthen your compatibility with your mate and improve your marriage.