**Text: I John 3:16 (NAS)**

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters.

**Context: I John 3:11-18 (NAS)**

**11** For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we are to love one another; **12** not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And for what reason did he murder him? Because his *own* deeds were evil, but his brother's were righteous. **13** Do not be surprised, brothers *and sisters,* if the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers *and sisters.* The one who does not love remains in death. **15** Everyone who hates his brother *or sister* is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. **16** We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers *and sisters.* **17** But whoever has worldly goods and sees his brother *or sister* in need, and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God remain in him? **18** Little children, let's not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

**Holy Spirit Led Fathers:**

1. Jesus Laid Down HIS Life for HIS Church
2. Jesus Endured the Pain and Suffering on the Cross for the JOY set before HIM
3. Holy Spirit Led Fathers Must Put CHRIST’s Will Before Self Will

**Point #1: Jesus Laid Down HIS Life for HIS Church**

**Ephesians 5:25 (NAS)**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

1. Fathers are to emulate Christ’s love for the church, which is characterized by self-sacrifice, and devotion.
2. Christ gave himself for the church, demonstrating his love through action and commitment.
3. This example highlights that love for the Church is not just an emotion, but a choice to serve and sacrifice self if needed.

**Point #2: Jesus Endured the Pain and Suffering on the Cross for the JOY set before HIM**

**Hebrews 12:2 (NAS)**

looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

In the Bible, joy is a state of deep inner happiness and contentment, often linked to spiritual realities and God's presence rather than external circumstances. It's a fruit of the Spirit, meaning it's a result of living in alignment with God's will. Biblical joy is enduring and can be found even in difficult times, as it's rooted in faith and trust in God.

Biblical joy is described as an internal state of being, not just a fleeting emotion. It's something that lasts and is present even when external circumstances are challenging.

**Connected to God and the Holy Spirit:**

Joy is often seen as a gift from God, a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Independent of Circumstances:**

Biblical joy is not dependent on worldly happiness or achievements. It can be found even in suffering and hardship.

**Point #3: Holy Spirit Led Fathers Must Put CHRIST’s Will Before Self Will**

**Matthew 22:37 (NAS)**

And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

Loving the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, is the central tenet of the Christian life. It emphasizes a complete and devoted love of GOD.

It encompasses one’s entire being. This love is not just an emotion but a commitment that involves one’s thoughts, feelings and actions.

**Matthew 6:33-34 (NAS)**

**33** "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you. **34** "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**Revelation 2:10 (NAS)**
'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

**Proverbs 3:5 (NAS)**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

**RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION OF FAITH:**

**1. HEAR the GOSPEL ~ Romans 10:17**

So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

**2. BELIEVE ~ Hebrews 11:6**

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

**3. REPENT ~ Luke 13:3**

I tell you nay; but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.

**4. CONFESS ~ Matthew 10:32-33**

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

**5. BE BAPTIZED ~ Acts 22:16**

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

**6. BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH ~ Revelation 2:10**

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.