Eric Butterworth Speaks

Essay #24
LOVE CAN FIND A WAY

A comprehensive definition of man must include his potential as an agent for the creative releasement of love. No human life is quite complete in terms of health or well-being without the steady flow from within of the energy of love.

What is this mysterious force that we call love? It is a manifestation of something indefinable. It is, however, certainly observable in human life. We know very little about electricity or magnetism or gravity; these are non-material forces that are very real, yet mysterious and elusive, but we use them. We know they work, even though we may not or probably do not know how they work. In the same way, the energy of love is real--it works. It is an observable phenomenon in human experience.

In the scriptures John says, "We love because He first loved us." In other words, we can love because the energy of love is in us. God is love in us, and thus God loves us. This love in us, which is divine energy, is ours to release in limitless degree, and when we release it,we are healed and blessed and prospered,and we have friends and love-relationships.

If we enter a dark room,we know light is needed; so, we turn on a light in some form. Sociologically, however, we are slow to catch this principle. If we enter a situation where love is apparently absent, whether there is hostility, bitterness, anger or injustice, we simply withhold love, and wonder why both we and the others involved have such a difficult time of it. When these conditions exist, or even where there has been criminal action, there is a great and a more urgent need for love than anything else. The condition has arisen out of a lack of love in the individual lives, and it will never be healed until enough love-energy is released into the climate in which these people exist. This is why Jesus says, "Love your enemies and pray for those who spitefully use you, that you may become sons of your Father."

You be the one to express love; you turn on the light, not because the others deserve that light or deserve a flow of love from you, but that you may plug into the creative energy and bring light and healing into your own consciousness and so that you can become a channel for that light and healing to others. Jesus tried his best to impress mankind with the importance of using creative love. "Love one another," he said over and over. Jesus was as much a scientist as he was a saint, proving his theory many times over by what we call his miracles. He wanted all people to love everybody because he knew that love-energy would set a natural law into inevitable action. Thus, through love, everyone would come to have a greater awareness of what he called the abundant life.

Perhaps our trouble is that we really do not fully understand love. We think of love only as that which expresses or which we experience on a human level, as a plaything of human volition. We have thought of love as that which we give to the deserving, which we must carefully hoard and conserve with a secret fear that someone may take advantage of our love and hurt us by letting us down. Remember, Shakespeare says, "Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds."

There is a love principle that is co-responsive with all persons; that love is incarnate in every thing. There is a principle in every thing and in everybody that responds to love. You and I have what we call a state of consciousness. It includes the way we think and feel inside. Everyone and everything we meet responds to us at the level of our state of consciousness. It will always appear that through the experiences we encounter we perceive reflections that are but the content of our minds. If there is antagonism in my mind towards life, and I meet someone with antagonism in his mind, this will arouse mine to the level of his whether I am conscious of it or not. It explains why some people even when we are meeting them for the first time upset us. People who get along with others are themselves not subconsciously antagonistic. Therefore, they are not antagonized. They on the contrary have a healing effect on other persons.

All of us are bearing around a consciousness of love, fellowship, friendship, or we are carrying around a consciousness of dis-union, dislike, resistance or resentment. These attitudes act with predictable accuracy, drawing or repelling, attracting or pushing away, building up or tearing down, whether we are aware of it or not. The point is, we can begin within ourselves to solve the problems in us. We can in this way make amazing strides in solving or dissolving the problem around us and those which are happening to us. In most instances we spend altogether too much time trying to solve our problems, which usually means trying to direct or force them into the channel that we have set for them. Love can find a way. First, love will dissolve human willfulness, erase fear, promote cooperation, release tension; and in the end it would appear that the problem did not need so much solving as it needed dissolving.

Here is a story of the mother of a ten year old boy who had yielded to popular concepts that her son was a born criminal. The social authorities held that he had come into the world without a conscience, that his was a psychopathic personality tending toward homicidal impulses, and that he would go on to an inevitable tragic end. The mother just could not believe that she had given birth to a monster,and she sought help from a spiritual counselor who counseled her to love more. She insisted defensively that no mother ever loved a child more. The counselor told her that a different kind of love was needed, a creative love that was God's love flowing through her, enabling her to look beyond appearances and precluding negative judgements. She queried how she could help judging and asserted that she would not be honest if she did not face up to her son's perverse nature. She declared that because she loved him she feared for his future, certainly a common parental motivation. She was told that ordinary love would only contribute to the boy's weakness, because it has eyes only for weakness, and so therefore she must work for a new kind of love, an extra-ordinary love, which obeys an unfailing creative principle. In this love she would not see her son's appearances of evil. She would have only good will for the boy; she would see him as a child of God. She would neither condemn or criticize; she would simply try to see him as he is seen by God. It took months to effect a change, a change that took place in her son's life. It took this long because it took her that long to bring about the necessary changes in her own feelings, in her own consciousness.

Gradually, she took hold of herself. Nothing was changed in all this time as far as the son was concerned, but changes were rapidly taking place in the mother's attitude. Suddenly, something quite wonderful burst forth in her experience; she felt the change in her attitude, not only in her mind, but in her heart. Her mental declaration of goodness within her son evoked within her a similar emotion, and she now was able truly to feel what she had been affirming. She was promply released from further fear, anxiety, or doubt and was in a state of freedom and joy. Almost immediately the boy's criminal tendencies and abnormal impulses began to change; he grew into a balanced, healthy-minded youngster--the problem was dissolved.

When you are groping about a dark room, and suddenly you touch the light switch you do not really alter anything in the room; you do not make, add or take anything away. Yet, everything is changed. When rightly used and expressed, love suddenly changes our whole life. There is no effort of trying to change or to make things happen or to shape things into new patterns; it is simply a light that reveals something that has always been there. It changes our entire perspective. We are no longer the operator, but rather a co-operator; we are no longer the author, but the co-author, co-creator, co-worker.

The key is awareness. When you are aware of this inner capacity to love, of the cosmic energy of love, then you begin to see through love. You meet people in love, you work in love, and life becomes a triumphant experience. Love always can find a way.