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The following study guide is for Lesson 15: The Holy Spirit's Love

Watch video: Fire in the Fireplace: The Holy Spirit's Love

Opening thought: "The Spirit that rested upon the suffering Messiah rests upon suffering Christians (I Peter 4:14). Just as Jesus' life was the embodiment of God's love, so we find that the Holy Spirit is particularly given to believers to live out God's own love in their loveless lives. 'God's own love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given us,' says Paul in Romans 5:5, and he rejoices to hear of that 'love in the Spirit', which is to be found in the church at Colossae (1:8). **So cardinal a quality is this, so clear a mark of a man being filled with the Spirit of Christ**, that in the middle of his three chapters on spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12-14), Paul sets the crowning gift of love. One only has to substitute the name of Jesus for 'love' in that chapter to see that the whole thing is a pen picture of Christ's way of life. **The first and foremost fruit of the Spirit is that outgoing love for others, irrespective of their deserts, which marked the Giver of the Spirit in his earthy life.**" - Michael Green, *I Believe in the Holy Spirit* (pages 111-112)

Bible Reading:

- Galatians 5: 22
- Romans 5: 1-5

Questions:

1. Romans 5 states that 'suffering produces endurance' and character which culminates in hope based on the love given us by the Holy Spirit to stand in grace and love others. Has the Holy Spirit revealed anyone to you that you need his help to love?
2. Why is true love sacrificial in nature?