



FROM THE 2020 NEW YEARS RETREAT

Becoming
TOGETHER

EARLY MORNING PRAYER

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EARLY MORNING PRAYER

I want to reflect on Peter this morning.

This is what Jesus said to Peter. *"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."* (Matthew 16:18)

The foundation of this church is Peter.

As you all know, Peter was very shaky. He was very emotional. He got easily angry. He really liked Jesus but at the crucial moment, when Jesus really needed his support, he denied him three times. He had a lot of desire to follow Jesus and to be with him but he had no power to do so.

Just see how Jesus prepares Peter at the end.



John 21:15-18

"15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' 16 A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' 17 He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.'

Do you love me? Everything depends on this. Underneath this question lies this undeniable truth: I love you.

This love is the foundation of the church. Love has the power. Love will win in the end. Love is all that matters.

Love has this Mysterious Power

Paul expressed God's mysterious love in this way.

"35Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...

37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Romans 8:35, 37-39)

God established this community on this love. We have to drink this love every day. We have to let this love run through our body, through every blood vessel, every vein of our body. We should be completely absorbed in God's love. Then we can accept those who are difficult to accept. Jesus loved the unlovable, the unacceptable, the unworthy. That is God's love.

Love drives out hatred.
Love drives out darkness.
Love drives out fear.

Jesus is the incarnation of God's love. That love gave birth to this community and that love will guide this community, and transform this community. When there is love, there is life in this community.

Let us not be like a child who always wants to receive love but be an adult who knows how to give love.

Love endures suffering.
Love overcomes anger.
Love thinks of others first.
Love is gentle.
Love suffers with those who suffer.
Love cries with those who cry.
Love rejoices with those who rejoice.
Love is generous.
Love embraces even the rejection

