

● WARM UP

During the 1980s, Huey Lewis & the News wrote a song called *The Power of Love*, which also featured in one of my favourite films, *Back to the Future*. The song talks about not needing money, or fame, and essentially says that what we all need is to feel “the power of love”. The Bible shares plenty of insights on how we can practically show the power of love (as a verb) within the context of family, children, friends, and our wider community.



● READ Ephesians 5:25; 6:4

● BACKGROUND

These scriptures provide us with two practical examples on how we can share the power of love. The first speaks of the sacrificial love of Christ, and the second shares the importance of raising our children in the ways of the Lord, through discipline and instruction by learning and applying faith, hope, and love. One of the barriers to this can be our own expectations, or even the expectations of others. So let's explore how these expectations can be serving or hindering us in sharing the power of love.

● QUESTIONS

- 1 In what ways has the power of love made a difference in your life?
- 2 What expectations do you have of love in family life and marriage?

- 3 How have these personal expectations or beliefs been formed?

- 4 In what ways are these expectations serving yourself and others?

What is God saying to me?

● LET'S PRAY

● REAL LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S POWER



Some 16 years ago my wife actually forced me to a Bill Subritzky meeting with my leg bound up tightly from a knee reconstruction that went totally wrong. I went forward for prayer for healing at the insistence of my wife, and I finished up lying down in the Spirit for about 40 minutes. I got up after Bill had finished preaching and started to walk away. The bandage had fallen off my leg - the swelling had gone down. To confirm that, I went to the hospital the following day. They took the pre-operation X-ray. They thought they'd got the wrong leg. They went back and took an X-ray of the other leg and then they came back and took an X-ray of the [first] leg, and I never had the operation at all! Mel

● CONSIDER THIS

Australian-born General of the Salvation Army, Eva Burrows, was quoted as saying: “In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together, and the music that brings harmony”.

In family life, how committed are we to emotionally investing in building strong relationships with our parents, spouse, and children? Making a personal commitment to loving one another is one of the best ways to provide protection and security in the home.

