

SEIZED BY THE POWER OF A GREAT AFFECTION*

When one is touched by God's love and given a burning heart, everything is different. The old limitations are gone. All the limitations we put on ourselves! But these are the limitations of *not* being in love. When we give ourselves to Christ, our hearts begin to burn and that love makes us want to reach beyond all previously lived-with limits. In the power of a great affection the impossible becomes possible. Christ's being ignites our inmost being. There is a release, an explosion within. Imaginative possibility after imaginative possibility presents itself for the healing of the global wounds of God's people.

One has to put oneself in the way of being seized. You can't suddenly be aware of the love of God with all of the resistances we have to giving and receiving love. All of us come wounded. We're so damaged that we don't really believe there is such a deep love, so we can't all of a sudden respond to the love of God which is there. But we can put ourselves in the way of being seized by it. That's the purpose of all the disciplines of the spiritual life. The disciplines really have to do with getting out our resistances and blockages and getting our souls ready for the breakthrough of love.

Each congregation's primary task is to create structures that offer the possibility of being seized. Does the structure for education in your church get souls ready for the breakthrough of love? Do each of the groups in your church offer opportunity for consciously facing resistances and blockages so that individuals are ready for this breakthrough? Do your own personal disciplines cause your heart to burn?

***These words were spoken by Gordon Cosby, who, with his wife Mary, co-founded Church of the Savior in Washington, D.C., in 1946 and continues to serve in ministry there.**