

# Under the Surface

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As we move into this new year, I'm trying to pray that the Lord reveal my true heart in matters that mean the most to Him and those I love. This isn't an easy prayer. He wants us to come to Him and He wants everyone to LIVE and not perish.

When things are going my way or when everything is peaceful, I'm content and I'm reminded of things that give me satisfaction, like a good conversation with a loved one, or watching my children play, laugh, and learn. Or even something like a good, strong, cup of coffee can satisfy me. All of these things are good but they satisfy my heart and flesh. Satisfying the spirit is a whole other animal so to speak.

If all I ever do is things that satisfy my flesh than I will never grow spiritually. I will always be content and I'm not saying there is anything wrong with being content– but the Bible tells us that suffering produces endurance in us. How will we build our faith and strength in God if we aren't met with troubles and hardship? How will we ever learn to go to the Lord? How will we ever know what sets us off because like it or not, everyone has ugly they are dealing with. Underneath the surface of trying to be like Jesus and loving others, we have areas that are festering and need to be dealt with.

**Romans 5:3-5 - (AMP) - And not only this, but [with joy] let us exult in our sufferings and rejoice in our hardships, knowing that hardship (distress, pressure, trouble) produces patient endurance; <sup>4</sup> and endurance, proven character (spiritual maturity); and proven character, hope and confident assurance [of eternal salvation]. <sup>5</sup> Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

It says it right there that God has ALREADY given us an abundance of love that is ready to be tapped into within us by the help of Holy Spirit. So that's what I'm tapping into and asking the Lord to turn on our internal faucets of love to saturate what's under the surface of our hearts and minds and do a spiritual cleaning. Nothing God does is ever skin deep – He goes to the root! Thank You Lord for revealing our true hearts Lord – and helping us to face hardships and pressures knowing that the end product is hope that doesn't disappoint. We love You and ask that You would help us this year to build our faith and confidence deeper so that when situations come (and they will) – we will react from the deeper, more lovingly saturated parts that You have nurtured. In Jesus name, we want what lies under our surfaces to be YOU. Amen.