



## Petra Newsletter// 2nd Edition

### LOVE REFRESH

by Pst. Seun Odelowo



Pastor Rick Warren has one way of greeting Saddleback church ( the church he founded)

“Have I told you how much I love you today?”

When I heard it, I thought it was sweet. A very nice thing to say to your congregation. Every one is sure to go home feeling great I thought. I thought nothing more of it each time I've heard him say it since then.

But as I prepared to write this article. I realized that simple statement was deeply spiritual. Apostle Paul wrote to the church In Rome,

“You should owe nothing to anyone, except that you will always owe love to each other. The person who loves others has done all that the law commands.” Romans 13:8 ERV  
Meaning that loving one another should be an unending cycle. A per-

petual cycle of love in all its ramifications. Everyday we wake up we have a debt to pay. A debt of God's love, Agape, Phileo, Eros, Storge.

Agape love to everyone, this is the love that seeks all people's eternal well-being and interests, even at great personal cost. Agape is the love that helps us express the other three types of love.

Phileo the love between friends and companions, it's characterized by trust, camaraderie and mutual love.

Eros love describes the love between husbands and wives, characterized by intimacy, attraction, desire. It describes romantic love's physical, emotional and spiritual aspects.

Storge love is the love between family members. It is the love describing the natural affection and loyalty between family members.

It's amazing that God built love into every aspect of our lives. We should all be blissfully enjoying love in every aspect of our lives, at home, at work, in church.,, why then do we not?

Many reasons, we get careless and forget that the enemy does not like this happy picture and so he'll use a lot of strategies to prevent us from living this life of love, he'll pitch us against one another and use every

tool at his disposal to destroy our relationships.

The charge to us today is to remember that even when the relationships that should naturally produce love from within us are under attack, we should remember that the maker of love says we should pay our debt of love.

Every day every morning we should ask ourselves ,How can my love be on repeat today? How can I refresh my love today?

I pray for myself and you that going forward, we will not carry the burden of the devil's negativity towards us, irrespective of the vessel he chooses to use. Instead we will carry the yoke of God's instruction to us to love everyone and love always. God bless you! Happy Loving!

*Have I told you how much I love you today? ❤️🙏*

“A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”

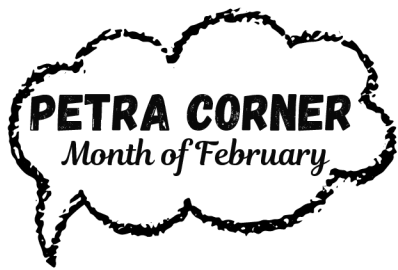
Proverbs 17:17 NKJV

<https://bible.com/bible/114/pro.17.17.NKJV>



Pst. Seun Odelowo

*The Executive director of Petra and Lively Stone ministries.*



We are excited to share that our PETRA weekly prayer meetings held every Thursday this month, and were all well attended. We had the privilege to lift our voices to God and travail in prayers. It was a powerful time of worship, encouragement, & faith-building.

### LET'S TALK TOUGH LOVE

Our monthly women's meeting held on Saturday, February 15th was a tremendous success, with 28 participants joining via zoom. The turnout exceeded expectations, and the level of engagement was truly inspiring. Our topic was "Tough Love". Women shared personal experiences, perspectives, and lessons learned, deepening our understanding of what tough love means and how it shapes our relationships.

The discussion centered on four pivotal themes: relationships, friendships, parenting, and when a child may need to show tough love to a parent - for instance; when a parent refuses essential medical advice. The conversation was further enriched by real-life examples, demonstrating the complexities and necessity of tough love across various facets of life.

### BIBLICAL INSIGHTS ON TOUGH LOVE

A biblical perspective on tough love was explored, with examples such as Jesus overturning the money changers' tables in the temple (Matt.21:12-13). This demonstrated that Jesus Christ, though gentle & compassionate, took a firm stand necessary to correct injustice.

Another powerful example was the fig tree that appeared full of life but bore no fruits - teaching us that outward appearances do not always reflect true substance, and that tough love sometimes involves calling out what is unproductive.



**Sapphire Group**  
(February facilitators)

The meeting was deeply enriching, filled with moments of reflection, encouragement, and personal revelations. It reminded us that tough love is not about being harsh but about guiding and correcting with love and wisdom.

We left the session feeling empowered and blessed, knowing that sometimes, the hardest conversations are the ones that lead to the greatest growth.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this incredible discussion.

We warmly invite all women to keep joining us as we fortify one another in faith and stand united on this journey! ♥

Omobolaji David-Ojumu  
For the Sapphire Group

### KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE MEETING

- Tough love is about helping, not hurting - it is done out of care, not cruelty.
- It requires wisdom, timing, and love - knowing when & how to apply it is crucial.
- Setting boundaries is necessary for growth - both for yourself & those around you.
- Tough love may not always be appreciated or understood immediately but when given with the right heart, & intentions, it can lead to transformation.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join our Sunday service

When: Sundays

Where: Pardes

Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm



Weekly Bible Study (Digging Deep)

When: Wednesdays

Where: Pardes

Time: 7:00pm - 8:05PM



PETRA Weekly Prayers

Dial in: +19789905000, 133498

THURSDAYS // 9:00 PM - 9:30 PM



WIM 27th Annual Conference

When: March 27th - 30th

Where: HYATT REGENCY DFW



### Daily Seeker's Hour

Monday to Friday: 6 PM - 7 PM

Saturday: 5 PM - 6 PM

Sunday: 30 minutes after service