

In 2 Cor. 6:11-12, Paul writes, 'Our mouth is open unto you, O Corinthians, our heart is enlarged. Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own affections.' What Paul is trying to say here is this: 'Our affection for you is not cramped or restricted. The outpouring of our love has not been choked down in any way. Our heart is large enough to include you. But you, on the other hand, have restricted the flow of love towards us.' They had allowed their own selfishness to clog up their system, somewhat like hardening of the arteries and they were slowly dying as a result.

Perhaps we had better examine ourselves to see if we have the same problem. Does love flow completely freely from each one of us? One of my first thoughts when I read this was that if we open our heart completely, then how do we keep from running out of love? This in turn got me to thinking about the fact that the source of our love is God, and He is able to supply us forever. No matter how much we love our fellow man, being in Christ ensures us an eternal supply. I am reminded of the story in 2 Kings 4:1-7, where Elisha by the power of God saves a widow from having her two children sold as slaves. Beginning in verse 2 he says, 'What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?' And she said, 'Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.' Then he said, 'Go, borrow vessels at large for yourselves from all your neighbors, even empty vessels: do not get a few. And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels; and you shall set aside what is full.' Now doing this she filled every vessel that she had gotten and sold the oil and paid her debts.

Elijah told her to take her oil and to pour it into as many containers that she could find. And he said 'get not a few'. Paul in a similar way is telling the Corinthians, and us, in the seventh chapter and the second verse to open our hearts all the way, and let God's love pour unceasingly out through us. We may be able to find other reasons to love, but unless our reason is God, our supply will run out.