

Testimony - Georgia Dresslar

I was driving to work recently, reflecting on how I could share my Testimony and the Gospel with others. I was trying to consider my mindset before I was saved and the mindset of others who are apprehensive and doubtful of God, perhaps even adamantly against His existence. A question came to mind that changed my life: "How can anyone know and seek love on this earth, yet not believe in God?"

Be mindful, I started my walk years ago, but I have read very few of the books in the Bible. On this particular morning, I had not yet read these exact words in 1 John 4:16, but I found myself overcome at that moment in my car with the understanding that "God is love." I started crying! Nearly had to pull over on I-75 in rush hour traffic because of the immense weight and the true depth of that realization. I thought I had been saved years ago when I acknowledged the existence of God, but shortly after, I had lost my mom to a 6-year battle with cancer, one we thought she had finally overcome, but that took her so quickly when our hopes were finally high. 2-months after my college graduation and 1-month before my husband and I's wedding. Selfishly, I could not bear that she was taken from me during the months I prayed desperately she would be there to see. She was not able to see me walk across the stage or walk down the aisle or be here in the trenches of post-partum depression following the births of my two beautiful babies. So I spent a lot of time incredibly mad and unserious with God. I was full of pain and there were days I felt like I was drowning, slowly.

But do you know who patiently waited for me, who picked me up off the ground each and every time, and continued to bless my life while I was still too mad and too stubborn to lay it down? God. He held me while I cried, He guided my path, and He never gave up on me - not once - because God **is** love. True, unfailing love.

I studied Neuroscience in college and have always had a keen interest in how we humans operate. And while I can explain to you the hormonal shifts that take place **once** we love, I cannot scientifically explain to you **what** love is at its core. Thought leaders in the field have tried, but in my opinion have always come up short. We are biologically **designed** to know and to seek love, for comfort, for joy, the absence of pain, peace... Think about that. If God is love, then we are biologically designed to **know** and to **seek HIM**. And through him, we are promised comfort, joy, freedom from pain, peace and literally everything that love provides, but **eternally**.

1 John 4:7-12 says "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

Goosebumps... When I read this passage for the first time later that night of this great revelation, I remember thinking WOW this is the cure to fear and I am saved!. And then I kept reading.

"There is no **fear** in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." 1 John 4:18

The Holy Spirit is gloriously and unfathomably present and I know now he has been with me all my life, even in my moments of doubt, heartache, fear, anxiety, and all those moments I didn't know how I would move forward - He was there guiding my path, patiently waiting for the day I would lay it all down at the foot of the cross and be welcomed Home with open arms.

I am blessed beyond my human understanding to **know** complete and all consuming love, the ultimate acceptance. I am no longer ruled by insecurity, by loneliness, or sadness because my good and gracious God is the King of kings and he knows my name and **He loves me**.

My favorite verse:

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."