

Foundations of Healing

Lesson 2: The Love of God

Ephesians 3:17-19 NKJV “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Living and walking in the fullness of God only happens when we are rooted and grounded in His love. When we know this love which passes knowledge.

1 John 4:15-16 NKJV “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”

Merriam Webster: To believe = to have firm faith in something; to accept it as true, genuine, or real; to have an unshakable conviction of its goodness, effectiveness, and ability

At the foundation of our faith, we must know and believe:

- 1) God love’s us unconditionally for who we are and who He created us to be, outside of our performance or behavior
- 2) As a result of that love, God wants good things for us
- 3) Not only does God want to do good things for us because He loves us, but He also WILL do good things for us because He loves us.

God is Love. God doesn’t just love us, it is who He is. His very nature is love. And if this is who He is then He cannot do opposite of who He is.

*1 John 4:8-10 NKJV “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.”*

The gospel of Jesus Christ isn’t about us loving God. It is about how much God loves us! Christianity is about receiving the never-ending, unconditional love of Christ and letting that love transform us from the inside out.

God love's us unconditionally independent of our performance

Romans 5:8 AMPC "But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us."

This is completely counter to most of our experiences with relationships throughout life. People often love us based on what we can do for them, or don't love us when we irritate or offend them. Marriages end because people stop "feeling" in love.

But God's kind of love is agape love. Agape love is the highest, most selfless form of love, defined as an unconditional commitment to the well-being of others through deliberate action rather than fleeting emotion.

- 1) Action vs. Feeling (John 3:16)
- 2) Unconditional vs. Transactional (seen in Romans 5:8, we did nothing to earn it and do nothing to remain loved)
- 3) Self-Sacrificing vs. Self-Preserving (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Jesus was loved by the Father and declared that same love for us. He loved us so much that He was willing to lay His life down for us. And He prayed for us to remain in that love.

Luke 3:22 "And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form like a dove on Him (Jesus), and a voice came from Heaven which said, 'You are my beloved Son. In You I am well pleased.'"

Beloved = precious, prized, treasured

John 15:9-13 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

We have been loved by the Father to the same fullness that He loved Jesus. As He loved Jesus, so He loves us. Jesus said that His purpose was to make the Father known to us so that the love He had for Jesus would be in us!

John 17:23, 26 "I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me... I have made you known to them, and will

continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

God’s love brings safety and security.

Romans 8:35-39 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

For I am persuaded = “unwavering certainty”

Tonight isn’t just about you getting a revelation of that love for you; it’s about you getting a revelation of the fact that God wants to use you to bring that revelation to others. To allow Him to flow through you so freely to those that desperately need to know and encounter His love.

Challenge for the week!