

Come to Know and Believe the Love of God

1 John 4:16-18

RSV – There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment (but the Spirit we have received is not of slavery again to fear but of sonship and adoption by which we cry, “Abba, Father”), and he who fears is not perfected in love.

Living – We need have no fear of someone who loves us perfectly; His perfect love for us eliminates all dread of what He might do to us. If we are afraid, it is for fear of what He might do to us (or allow on us), and shows that we are not fully convinced that He really loves us.

Amplified – And we know (understand, recognize, and are conscious of by observation and by experience) and believe (rely on, adhere to) the love God cherishes for us... In this (union and communion with Him) love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us... There is no fear in love – dread does not exist, but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror!...

Ephesians 3:14-21

V. 17 - ...may you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love.

V. 18 – That you may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp... the bounds of this love...

V. 19 - ...that you may be filled and may have the richest measure of the divine presence and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself~

Living V. 17 - ...May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love...

V. 20 – God by His mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes.

Romans 5:5-10 – Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us. While we were yet in weakness [powerless to help ourselves], at the fitting time Christ died for (in behalf of) the ungodly. Now it is an extraordinary thing for one to give his life even for an upright man, though perhaps for a noble and lovable and generous benefactor someone might even dare to die. 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. Therefore, since we are now justified by Christ’s blood, how much more [certain is it that] we shall be saved by Him from the indignation and wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, it is much more [certain], now that we are reconciled, that we shall be saved (daily delivered from sin’s dominion) through His [resurrection] life.

Romans 8:31-39 - What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?] He who did not withhold or spare [even] His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely and graciously give us all [other] things?

Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies. Who one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather is the one who is raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loves us. For I am convinced (persuaded beyond doubt)... nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up - for me! How will He not also along with Him graciously give me all things!
- God demonstrated His love: while I was a sinner Christ died for me. If when I was an enemy I was reconciled by His death, much more now shall I be saved (healed, delivered, made completely whole) through His life?
- This is how God demonstrated His love: He sent His only Son into the world that we might live through Him – even while we were still sinners.
- This is love: not that we love God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice for our sin.
- We need to know and rely on this love His has for us.
- There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The man who fears is not made perfect in love. He doesn't yet realize the full extent of God's love.
- When you fully realize and understand all that God has done for us and the extent of His love, trust will be automatic and all fear will be completely gone!
- Come to know and believe His love.

Romans 8:35-39 – Why was Paul more than a conqueror? Why did he always gain a surpassing victory in the troubles of life?

V. 38 – For I am *persuaded beyond doubt* and sure that neither death nor life, angels nor principalities, things impending and threatening, things to come, powers, height nor depth, nothing in all creation – will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

He was *absolutely certain* that: He who gave His Son while we were His enemies could not fail now to freely and graciously give us all things with Him (V. 8:32).

V. 35 – Who then can ever keep Christ's love from us?

V. 38 – For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from His love...

V. 39 - ...nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus when He died for us.

Philippians 4:11-13 – Paul had learned the secret to being content in any situation.

V. 11 - ... I have learned how to be content (satisfied to the power where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am in.

V. 12 - ...I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing any situation...

V. 13 – I have (already) strength for all things in Christ who empowers me...

It was his being rooted deep in love and founded securely on love, his apprehending and grasping the bounds of this love, his being persuaded beyond doubt, sure and absolutely certain that nothing could separate him from the present help of God's love that caused him to be like this.

2 Timothy 1:12 - Still I am not ashamed, for I know (perceive, have knowledge of, and am acquainted with) Him Whom I have believed, and I am [positively] *persuaded* that He is able to guard and keep that which has been entrusted to me and which I have committed [to Him] until that day.

Can you trust Him? Can you trust Him with yourself?

God's mercy:

He longs to meet our needs (Isaiah 30:18).

He desires above all things our well being (3 John 2).

He delights in our well being and prosperity (Ps 35:27).

He really wants to help – EVERY TIME! (Hebrews 4:16).

His primary goal and desire is our life abundantly. It is why Jesus came and what He paid the price for! (John 10:10).

Look at Jesus in the Gospel's – always meeting needs immediately, every time, going about doing good and healing all.

What blocks this in our lives? Unbelief! We don't really believe from our hearts in His goodness and love. He is love. We don't actually expect Him to be what He says and shows us He is. Or we think down on the inside that we are some special case and that our sins and shortcomings were not fully covered by His sacrifice. We unconsciously feel that He still holds them against us! That is a lie of the devil sent to rob you, to kill you and destroy you!

Trust, hope, faith in His mercy, His love and goodness let loose these things towards us!

Psalm 23:6 – Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

2 Chronicles 16:9 – For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

1 John 4:16 – 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.

Ephesians 1:19 – that I may know... what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

Romans 8:31-32 – What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Hebrews 2:18 – For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15-16 – For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Psalm 32:10 – The Lord's mercy surrounds those who trust Him.

Psalm 33:18 – The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him and hope in His mercy... V. 22 – Mercy will be on us in accordance with our hope in Him.

Psalm 103:17 – But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him. His mercy is on me when I revere Him and worship Him.

Psalm 147:11 – The Lord delights in those who fear Him and hope in His love.

What hindered Jesus in the Gospels? Matthew 13: 58 - Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

THE SAME THING HINDERED HIM IN THOSE DAYS AS DOES IN THESE – UNBELIEF!

Matthew 15:28 – Great is your faith, be it done for you as you wish.

Real faith in God is faith in His love and willingness to help because God is love. Faith is not really faith unless it believes (1) that God is and (2) that He is a rewarder of you if you seek Him. To believe Him to be a rewarder is to actu-

ally expect His reward, to actually expect the desired results, the things you are seeking Him for.

Ephesians 3:20 - Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. THIS WORKS FOR US BY FAITH JUST LIKE ALL THE REST OF THE WORD!

God's way of dealing with man hasn't changed. In the Old Testament it was hope or trust in His mercy that released His power and present help. In the New Testament it is faith in His grace that brings His blessings to us! This is speaking of exactly the same thing! The terminology is slightly different – hope or trust in the Old Testament and mercy or grace in the New.

More good things God wants for me:

Isaiah 48:17-18 - Oh that you had hearkened to my commandments! Then your peace and prosperity would have been like a flowing river and your righteousness like the waves. I am the Lord your God who teaches you to profit and leads you in the way that you should go.

Psalm 35:27 - He takes pleasure in my prosperity and well being.

3 John 2 - He desires that I may prosper in every way and keep well, even as my soul prospers

Isaiah 30:18 - The Lord earnestly waits, expecting, looking and longing to be gracious to me; and therefore He lifts Himself up that He may have mercy and show lovingkindness to me.

He *longs* to be gracious to me. He *longs* to show me His grace. He *longs* to show me favor. He gives more grace, more favor. He gives grace to the humble. I humble myself before Him in one way by casting all my cares on Him, by looking to Him and trusting in Him alone.

Psalm 62 - For God *alone* my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation. He *only* is my Rock and my Salvation, my Defense and my Fortress, I shall not be greatly moved. My soul, wait only upon God and silently submit to Him, for my hope and expectation are from Him. With God rests my salvation and my glory; He is my Rock of unyielding strength and impenetrable hardness, and my refuge is in God!

His desire for me is to that I be free from all anxiety and distressing care...

Proverbs 1:33 - I hearken to Him and therefore dwell safely and quiet from the fear of evil. I CAN LIVE FREE FROM FEAR OF EVIL!

Matthew 11:28-30 - I come to Him. He causes me to rest. He eases, relieves and refreshes my soul. I learn of Him and take His yoke on me... Therefore, I find rest (relief, ease, refreshment and blessed quiet) for my soul.

Notes from Bosworth on Mercy:

Faith must rest on the will of God alone. Appropriating faith is not believing that God *can* but that God *will*. Faith in His mercy, faith in His love and willingness, is what will release this mercy in actual outward results.

To have compassion is to love tenderly, to pity, so show mercy, to be full of eager yearning. He loves me tenderly. He pities me. He is full of eager yearning towards me, so much so that He shows me mercy – when I trust in Him.

It is not what God *can* do but what we know He *yearns* to do that inspires faith. Faith will rise mountain high when the truth of God's present love and compassion begins to dawn upon the minds and hearts of people.

When you realize that He *really wants* to help you, whatever you need, it inspires you to reach out and take what you know He *longs* to give you, what, in fact, He has already given. Keep your eyes on His love and mercy. Do not allow

the compassion of God to be eclipsed from before your eyes.

The word “willing” is too tame to fully express God’s merciful attitude towards us. He delights in mercy. He is not only willing but *eager* to pour His blessings in great profusion upon all who make it possible for Him to do so. He is ever hunting for opportunities to gratify His benevolent heart. He is searching for those He can show Himself strong in behalf of.

If you want to please God, remove the obstacles out of the way of the exercise of His benevolence. He exists forever in a state of entire consecration to pour forth blessings upon His creatures whenever they make it possible.

Practice His Unchangeable Presence

Make yourself aware of God at all times. He is always there wanting to make Himself real to you. Walk with God. Live in a constant sense of confidence and security in His presence.

Learn to talk things over with Him. He is there; visit with Him! Remember He loves you and is interested in all of your problems. He will make His Word answer every question; He will make Himself real in your life and home.

The answer to your most urgent need is close – much closer than you ever imagined. The Father is so near that you can talk to Him at any moment, and His Spirit is so close that He can give you comfort, peace and direction at any time, wherever you are, regardless of your feelings – all you have to do is ask and trust that He will act.

God is always the same and always with me the same, but my perception and my feelings continually change. But truth is not based on my moods or passing emotions or my present circumstances but on the eternal realities and on the unchanging nature of God and the promises of God.

If I begin to rely on feelings and they change, I will have to build again by faith alone. But if I continue to rely on God according to His Word regardless of how much or how little I feel Him or what seems to be happening around me, my faith is based on something eternal and unchangeable and will remain constant regardless of feelings or circumstances; therefore His presence in my life remains the same – even in my own perception.

I need to rely on the fact of His unchangeable presence not the feeling or assurance of it. Relying on feeling His presence throws things out of balance, and when I no longer feel it, He seems to be gone. But when I rely on a fact that is always the same, His presence never changes - because the fact never changes.

It is one thing to yield to the Spirit when He is moving and catch on fire when He is burning. But it is another to stir up yourself and kindle the fire of the Spirit that is in you when you are feeling dried up, when you have no sense of His presence or moving and it even seems and feels like God is against you. God needs people like these - those who can be the fire source to catch on fire those around them.

Mark 13:31 – Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. I am more stable trusting in the Word than in trusting the ground to hold me up. It is perfectly safe to trust my life and every one of my concerns onto the Lord and to rely on what He has to say.

For I know Him whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to guard that which I have committed to Him until that day – even myself, my life with all of its concerns.