

Love, Part 1

God's Love is the Foundation of our Faith

Faith is our trusting God to keep His Word. When we understand how much God loves us and wants to bless us our faith and our confidence will be stronger. Our faith will be much more consistent, unwavering, and unshakable.

1. God wants to bless us. He is good and His will for us is good only

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life (the absolute fullness of life which belongs to God) and have it abundantly. John 10:10

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17

We need to develop a 'continuous undercurrent' of confident expectation that life is good because God is good. Too many of us live with a 'continuous undercurrent' of dread – always looking over our shoulder wondering when the next problem is going to surface.

2. God's Love is Unconditional

- God loves us without reservations and without conditions. We are the ones that mistakenly put conditions on God's love for us. We tend to think that His love is dependent upon our performance
- Because of our 'imperfectness', we tend to trust God's ability but not His willingness to help us
- We tend to get stuck focusing on our weaknesses – our flesh.
 1. Though we recognize that we are initially saved by grace, after we are saved we think that we need to fix ourselves before we can grow in or receive from God
 2. I would pray that I trusted him but didn't trust myself
 3. Because of my focus on my performance, I was continuously wondering why my faith wasn't working and where I missed it
- We need to instead focus on who we really are – a spirit.
 1. When we are born again we are exactly like Jesus

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Cor 5:17

By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 1 John 4:17

For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. Col 2:9-10

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself. Eph 1:19-23

Though we might not think that we are worthy of God's love, we need to remember that our spirits (the real you) is worthy enough to be the tabernacle of God, the Holy Spirit.

- We must be completely confident that God loves us and wants to help us

For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." So we can say with confidence, "The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?" Heb 13:5-6

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

3. God loves us and has a great plan for us

- We are His masterpiece and we can do the good things He planned for us - Eph 2:1-10

4. This must first be about relationship, not what God can do to get you into victory

- Our response to how much God loves us must be to pursue him and develop a relationship with him

- But, the benefit of that pursuit is confidence, strength, consistency

Brother Lawrence spoke with great openness of heart concerning his manner of going to God. He told me that all consists in one hearty renunciation of everything which we know does not lead to God. We might accustom ourselves to a continual conversation with Him with freedom and in simplicity. We need only recognize God intimately present with us and address ourselves to Him every moment. We need to beg His assistance for knowing His will in things doubtful and for rightly performing those things which we plainly see He requires of us, offering them to Him before we do them, and giving God thanks when we have completed them.

In our conversation with God we should engage in praising, adoring, and loving Him incessantly for His infinite goodness and perfection. Without being discouraged because of our sins, we should pray for His grace with perfect confidence, relying on the infinite merits of our Lord. Brother Lawrence said that God never failed offering us His grace at each action. It never failed except when Brother Lawrence's thoughts had wandered from a sense of God's presence, or he forgot to ask His assistance. He said that God always gave us light in our doubts when we had no other design but to please Him.

Our sanctification did not depend upon changing our works. Instead, it depended on doing those things for God's sake which we commonly do for our own. The Practice of the Presence of God

- Those who trust the Lord are fixed - Psalm 112
- I understand and am confident when I enter your sanctuary - Psalm 73

5. **Takeaway:** You cannot live by faith if you think God is mad at you and sends harm to teach you something. God is good, He loves you, He is not mad at you. He sees you as perfect, like Jesus, and His desire is to bless you. Your faith will be strongest when you realize God loves you and then you respond to His love by having a personal relationship with Him.

6. **Reference Articles**

- Our Help, 1 & 2, Sarah LaGail Wyatt
- Enter into His Courts with Praise, Kenneth Copeland
- God's Kind of Love to You, Andrew Wommack