

# The Foundation of Love

**The fuel and foundation to sustaining passion in our pursuit of Jesus is a foundational understanding of His heart toward us.**

For many sincere believers, the issue of surrender or trust before the Lord is due to a lack of knowledge of His heart toward them. They do not know Him rightly, therefore they do not respond rightly to Him. If we think He is mostly mad, angry, disappointed etc, our response will not be sacrificial love and devotion. It will be distance, appeasement, working for affection/acceptance.

- A. Most of us have sincere desires for more of God, but we have an ache in the depths of our hearts that leaves us without confidence in His love. We have a reach toward Him in our heart but we also have a skewed view of Him that keeps us from continuing in our journey to know and love Him.
- B. The uncertainty we have in our hearts about His love and heart toward us is not because the Bible is vague or unclear, or that it is a small topic.
- C. Our uncertainty comes from our false/distorted view of who He is and His heart toward us. This has its origin in an unrenewed of heart/mind. We can renew our heart/mind through encountering His heart in the place of prayer, Word and worship.
- D. Shame, fear, condemnation, guilt, accusation, works mindset [religious performance] are all enemies to love. They will keep us from entering into the fullness of our identity before our Father and a loving response toward Him.
- E. Many of us have a mindset that causes us to be more confident in our love and commitment for God than His love and commitment toward us. This is what Jesus was addressing in the life of Peter the night of His

betrayal and death. We must solidify that He chose us first, we did not chose Him first.

- F. We must realize that there is something greater than our weakness and sin: it is our Savior.

## **Dealing with condemnation [Romans 8:1, 31–39]**

<sup>1</sup> So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus... <sup>31</sup>  
What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? <sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. <sup>34</sup> Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. <sup>35</sup> Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? <sup>36</sup> (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") <sup>37</sup> No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. <sup>38</sup> 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—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> 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.

**We must truly wrestle with the questions this passage answers and poses toward us.**

1. What is our response to all that God has both said of us and done for us?
2. Who can be against us if He is for us?
3. Who brings accusation against us since the Lord Himself has declared us righteous or right before Him.
4. Who condemns us, if God sent His Son, He died our death, paid our debt, rose in victory over all that opposes us and is praying for us now?
5. What can separate us from the love of God?
6. Does it mean he no longer loves us if we experience hardship now in this life?

A. Scripture clearly speaks of the reality of God's heart toward us after we make a choice of faith/love toward Him. We stand redeemed from our debt of sin, cleansed from our past, restored and reconciled as sons/daughters and positioned as the apple of His eye, the source of joy and pleasure in His heart.

B. We must dig out the treasure in these truths to war against the onslaught of deception and accusation the enemy brings against our hearts.

### **1 John 3:20–23**

<sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, **if our hearts do not condemn us, we**

**have confidence before God** <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

- A. I believe this verse sheds light on why the enemy works overtime to try to condemn our hearts and keep us walking in shame and fear, because of the huge implications upon our heart and relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- B. If our hearts condemn us we must first know that God is greater than our heart [our feelings, past, failures and beliefs] and He knows all things. Yet with this knowledge and perfect insight into the depths of our hearts, He remains committed in love and calls to us to pursue Him more.
- C. The result of a heart free from condemnation is confidence. The result of confidence is fruitful prayer and communion with God.

### **1 John 4:16–19**

**<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; **but perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment [punishment]. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. <sup>19</sup> **We love Him because He first loved us.****

#### **A. 2 Keys: know and believe**

- a. Know: experiential love, a reality that you have encountered. An intimate knowledge
  - b. Believe: to rely on, trust in and be convinced of His love. This is a result of knowing or encountering His love. We will not believe without knowing.
- B. God is love: this is not something He does, but who He is.
  - C. 2 truths we must understand to have confidence in love
    - a. He loves us in our weakness

- b. Though our love is small or immature, He looks at it as real.
- D. His love casts out fear or what has its origin in works, condemnation, accusation, self-hatred etc. This means that His love erodes the foundation of the pillars that support all the lies sown into our hearts over years. We must press for more encounters with His love that will continue to weed out the tares of our hearts [things sown by the enemy into our hearts] as we grow in love.
- E. The Lord does not punish us, but corrects and disciplines in love. Even in His correction it is in love and because of His delight in us. [Hebrews 12:5-11, Proverbs 3:11-12]
- F. We love Him because He first loved us**
  - a. The source of our love is in encountering His love. We cannot muster up love or lasting commitment to Jesus apart from our heart knowing and encountering His love.
  - b. the process of maturing in love will be through a life of abiding in His love and pursuing the reality of His heart toward us.
- G. We must realign our thoughts and understanding of God through the Word not our past or our experience [lack of]. He delights in us, rejoices over us, desires us, and loves us with all His heart. All He does is through this heart of love and desire.

### **Psalm 16:3**

<sup>3</sup> As for the saints who are on the earth, “They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.”

### **Ephesians 2:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit

together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.