



Sunday November 25, 2018
The Father's Love
Part-4 : Receiving The Father's Love

Introduction

Your revelation of God affects your relationship with God. Your relationship with God also affects your relationship with others.

Our objective in this series on "The Father's Love" is to know and experience the Father's Love.

This will change the way we relate to God, to ourselves and to others as well.

Part-1 : Infinite God, Our Heavenly Father

Part-2 : Immeasurable Love

Part-3 : Our Heavenly Father's True Picture

- i. An Unchanging Heavenly Father
- ii. An Unfailing Heavenly Father
- iii. A Bountiful and Generous Father
- iv. A Merciful Father
- v. A Redeeming Father
- vi. An Accepting Father
- vii. A Father of Abundant Grace
- viii. An Empowering Father
- ix. An Infinite Father

Today: Part-4 : Receiving The Father's Love

The God Kind of love

The Bible uses the Greek word 'agape' to refer to the God kind of love.

1 Corinthians 13 gives us a brief glimpse of this kind of love, which God has and which we are to walk in. Let's read this, with the perspective that this is a description of the love God has for us.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails.

God is love (1 John 4:8).

God is patient and kind toward us.



God is not rude toward us.
God is not "selfish", but is really interested in us.
God is not easily provoked.
God does not think evil toward us.
God does not rejoice in sin.
God rejoices in truth - when we walk in truth.
God bears (puts up) with all things.
God "believes and hopes" (is inclined and persuaded to do) the best for us.
God endures in His love for us. His love is enduring. This love never runs out, dries up or comes to an end. This love lasts, and lasts, and lasts..it is ever lasting...just as He said in Jeremiah 31:3 *"The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."*
God never fails. His love for us never fails, weakens,

This is how God loves us. We need to receive this, acknowledge this and let it be settled deep in us, that we are loved by God in such a manner.

Let's reiterate a few insights and also present a few additional insights about the love that God has for us, and then discuss the importance of knowing, believing, receiving and resting in this love.

Love That Is Unconditional

God's love is unconditional It comes with 'no strings attached'. He simply invites us to receive His love and respond to that.

1 John 4:9-10

9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

It was not that we were going seeking after God. Rather, God came after us in His love. And out of His great love, He paid a great price, to remove what hindered us from knowing Him and being in His family and experiencing His goodness toward us. He paid the price entirely.

Now all we can do is receive and respond to His love.

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.



Love That Is Uncommon

John 17:23,26

23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

In verse 23, above, Jesus affirms that the Father loves us, the same way (in manner and measure) the Father loves Jesus.

Say this: *"The Father love me, the same way He loves Jesus. I am loved by the Father, the same way Jesus is loved by the Father".*

The Father loves you the same way He loves Jesus.

In verse 26, above, the Lord Jesus prays that we too will have in us (feel, know and experience in our hearts) the Father's love - the same love the Father has for His Son Jesus Christ.

Say this: *"I feel, know and experience in my heart the Father's love for me, which is the same love with which the Father loves Jesus".*

This kind of love is uncommon and impartial.

We would normally think that the One who is Perfect would be loved a whole lot more than those (us) who are imperfect. But to think that we, who are imperfect are loved by the Father, the same way that He loves the Perfect One, His Son is absolutely amazing.

There is no partiality with God (Romans 2:11). God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). We know this. Yet often in the way we relate to God, we think that there are other believers who are more favored or more loved by God, than us. Think about this. God is not partial with His own Son - He does not love Him any more than He loves us. Then would He be partial to anyone else - to love them more than He would love us? God's love for us is impartial.

We are in the Beloved and are beloved of God.

Mark 1:11



Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Romans 1:7

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:6

to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

The Father referred to Jesus as His Beloved Son. The apostle Paul lets us know that we too are "beloved of God" and are "accepted in the Beloved".

Say this: *"I am in the Beloved and I am beloved of God".*

Love That Makes Us Unashamed

The Bible teaches us that "...love covers all sins." (Proverbs 10:12; 1 Peter 4:8)

Love covers. It clothes. It protects. Love removes nakedness and shame, and brings dignity, security and honor.

This is what the love of God does for us.

Ephesians 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Colossians 1:21-22

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

We are holy, blameless (without blame) and above reproach in God's sight, because of His love for us!



Love That Is Unbreakable

Nothing can break, stop, hinder or separate us from the Father's love. His love never gives up on us. There is perhaps no better way to describe this, than what we read here in Romans 8:

Romans 8:35-37

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written: "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER."

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 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.

Love That Makes Us More Than Conquerors

Paul affirms that because of God unbreakable love, in all these things - the worst of things - we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Romans 8:37

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

To be 'more than conquerors' is to gain an overwhelming victory, gain a decisive victory, gain complete victory, to vanquish beyond, to gain more than a victory.

In the midst of the worst that can be brought against us, because of His love for us, we still gain an overwhelming victory and we are complete victors! His love brings us out as complete winners. Because all of those things against us, are unsuccessful in separating us from the Father's love for us in Christ!

So even in the midst of the worst, we can walk with heads held up high, as winners, victors, as more than conquerors!



Love That Unshackles (Liberates) Us

Fear has torment. One other place has torment - hell. Living in fear, is like living in hell, in a place of torment.

Perfect love banishes all fear. It sets us free from fear.

Perfect love comes from only One Source - God. Experiencing perfect love liberates us.

1 John 4:17-18

17 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.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

1 John 4:17-18 (Amplified Bible)

17 In this [union and fellowship with Him], love is completed and perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him]; because as He is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love [dread does not exist]. But perfect (complete, full-grown) love drives out fear, because fear involves [the expectation of divine] punishment, so the one who is afraid [of God's judgment] is not perfected in love [has not grown into a sufficient understanding of God's love].

Perfect love is love that is complete, full-grown. This has to do with us growing into a sufficient understanding of God's love for us.

For love to be perfected in us, we have to grow into an personal, experiential understanding of the Father's great love for us. This is the very purpose of this entire study on the Father's love. To help us grow into an personal, experiential understanding of the Father's great love for us. When this happens we are unshackled. We are liberated from all fear, dread and torment of God's judgment or punishment or condemnation!

Experiencing the Father's love releases us...

...from every sense of guilt, shame and condemnation. We are holy and without blame covered by His love (Ephesians 1:4).

...from feeling unloved or rejected. We are fully, completely and totally accepted in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6)

...from the need to perform or earn His love. He loved us even before we knew Him (1 John 4:9-10).



...from all sense of unworthiness and worthlessness. In His love He has adopted us as His own sons and daughters (Ephesians 1:5).

...from feeling like a captive, enslaved and trapped. You are free. He did not give us the spirit of slavery to be fearful like slaves (Romans 8:15).

...from all sense of being controlled, manipulated, used. We are empowered by His love.

...from all feelings of fear in our lives, fear about the future, fear about failure, fear about lack and insufficiency. His perfect love drives out all fear (1 John 4:18).

Our unmet expectations are resolved in His love.

Our unexpected experiences and events in life that once seemed to have shattered us now seem insignificant and we arise as more than conquerors because of His love.

Even our own personal mistakes, bad choices and poor decisions melt away on His love and we stand unashamed, know we are beloved and fully accepted in the Beloved!

When we receive His love, we are released from everything that weighs us down.

Security, Self-Worth, Significance

It is commonly said that each human being has a deep need for security, self-worth, and significance. When we are perfected in love, we are able to firmly ground our 3S's : Security, Self-Worth and Significance in the Father's Love for us.

Know, Believe, Receive And Rest In The Love That God Has For You

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.

known = to know absolutely, to be sure of

believed = have faith in

abide = dwell, rest continually



Know

We have made every attempt in the chapters thus far to present to us the truth about the Father's love for us. We have heard and we know the love the Father has for us.

Believe

Now we must believe.

Believe the love that God has for you. We have read God's Word. His Word is truth. God's Word is not lying to you about God's great love for you. The Cross is not lying to you about God's great love for you. Believe the love the Father has for you.

Receive - Personally Experience

When you believe you can receive, that is make it your own. You personally experience the Father's love for you.

Simply receive, in order to experience the Father's love for you.

We must simply receive His love in order to experience His embrace.

You simply let Him love you, because He is love, because He is your Father.

...not because you've been His best child.

...not because you've earned it.

...not because you've done so much for Him.

...but let Him love you, because He just simply wants you to receive His love

This is what Paul prayed, as we saw in an earlier chapter. We are to know by personal experience the immeasurable love God has for us, and then we must be deeply rooted and securely grounded in the Father's love.

Ephesians 3:18-19

18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19 (Amplified Bible)

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith. And may you, having been [deeply] rooted and [securely] grounded in love,



18 be fully capable of **comprehending** with all the saints (God's people) the width and length and height and depth of His love [fully experiencing that amazing, endless love];

19 and [that you may come] to **know [practically, through personal experience] the love of Christ** which far surpasses [mere] knowledge [without experience], that you may be filled up [throughout your being] to all the fullness of God [so that you may have the richest experience of God's presence in your lives, completely filled and flooded with God Himself].

Rest - Abide, Be Rooted, Be Securely Grounded, Quiet Yourself in His Love

Once you have experience His love, you can now rest in the Father's love for you, that is, cast off all that disturbs you. You can be deeply rooted and securely grounded in the Father's love. Nothing is going to shake you now. You are quieted in His love.

Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

We find all our emotional needs met, a complete sense of acceptance when we receive a revelation of the Father's love.

Receiving the Father's love brings deep emotional healing and brings us into a place of emotional wholeness and well-being.

We also find our complete identity out of this place of being His son or daughter.

We must learn to rest in His love and live out of this love He has for us. In the next chapter we will examine in greater detail what it means to abide in His love.

Prayer Over The Gathering To Receive And Experience The Father's Love

(If you are by yourself, you can personalize this prayer and pray over yourself)

Dear Heavenly Father, let the presence of your great love for us come on us and blanket, cover and cloth each of us. May each of us have a personal and tangible encounter with your great love for us. Let your love pour into our soul. Holy Spirit let the Father's love pour afresh into



our being. Let the love of God flood every part of our being, our mind, will and emotions. Pour your love into the wounded areas of our soul and heal us. Make us whole.

Let all hurts, pains and negative emotions be washed away. Let all guilt, shame, rejection, fear, all feelings of loneliness, of abandonment, of rejection, of isolation be washed away by your love. Wash away all kinds of fear - fear of the future, fear of failure, fear of loving others, fear of being loved, fear of trusting people, - be removed.

Let each one feel the Father's embrace.

Let the Father's love dismantle and break our pride, our dependence on self, our emotional walls and defenses that we have raised up which actually keep us from experiencing your love.

Release us from our bondages - our bondage to performance, to striving, to earn love and acceptance.....and bring us to a place of simply receiving your immeasurable, unlimited, unconditional and unchangeable love. Quiet us with your love. Bring us to a place of rest in your love.

MINISTRY TIME
SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday November 25, 2018 The Father's Love Part-4 : Receiving The Father's Love

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *will be read as part of the questions below*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, Reflect on 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and discuss it as a description of the God-kind of love, the love that God has for us.

#2, Reflect on John 17:23,26 the Father loves you the same way He loves Jesus and being beloved of God. Try to discuss this and what it implies.

#3, Reflect on Romans 8:35-37 why are we 'more than conquerors' in all these things? How does this affect your perspective of life situations.



#4, Look at 1 John 4:17-18 from the Amplified Bible, and discuss what it means to have His love perfected in us. How can we get to that place of having His love perfect in us? How would this affect us?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>