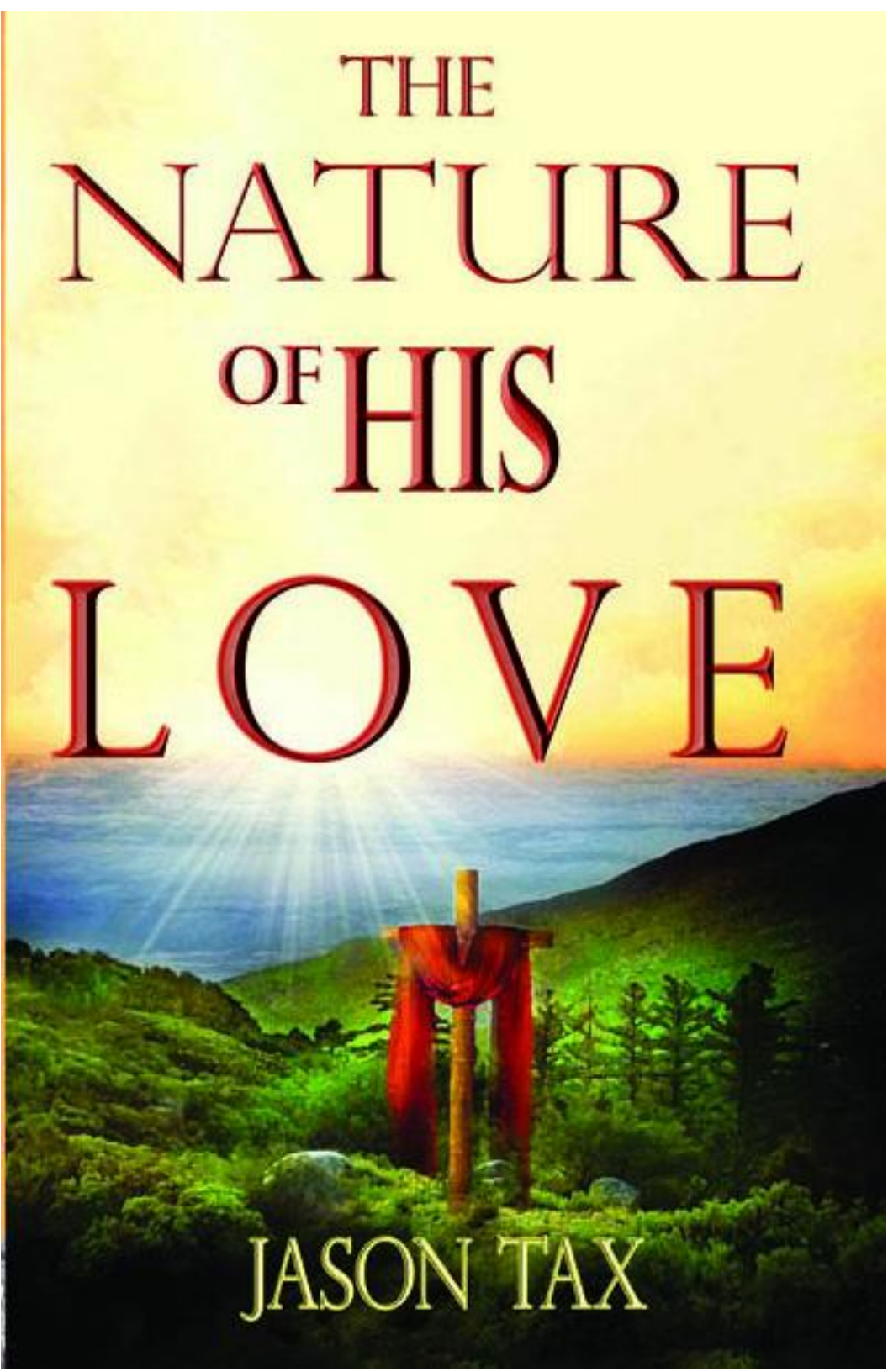


THE
NATURE
OF HIS
LOVE

The background of the cover features a landscape with a wooden cross in the foreground, a red cloth draped over it, and a bright sunburst effect in the sky over a body of water. The scene is set in a lush, green valley with rolling hills and trees.

JASON TAX

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The Nature of His Love

Jason Tax

Dedication

I give all the glory for every truth and manifestation of the love of God contained in this book to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are my Father, Friend, Brother, Lover, Teacher, and so much more! Without Your love I would be nothing, and could never accomplish the things we do together.

I also dedicate it to the family of God, my family according to birth, and to a lost and dying world in desperate need of the unconditional love of God! I hope and pray that all would experientially know the full measure of the nature of our Heavenly Father's love!

Acknowledgements

A big thank you to the Bethel/BSSM leadership, staff, and students. Thank you for providing an atmosphere of heaven to learn, grow, and live in a kingdom lifestyle. Thanks for showing me how family lives together in love!

Another big thanks to all my friends, and to those who have impacted my life over the years. You know who you are. Thanks for helping me become the person I am today! You guys are amazing!

Special thanks to my family. Thanks for being there through the good times and the bad. I love you all!

Thanks to Jenn Page for the cover art. For more great art check out her website at: www.4himpaintings.com

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Introduction

Hello my dear friends and family, I greet you in the love and glory of the mighty name of Jesus! These are exciting times that we are living in, and God is definitely on the move. I am very excited, blessed, and honored to be able to share with you some very important revelations and mysteries that have been lacking in the church for many years. We are in a time of reformation, and God is unveiling the mysteries of His nature and glory! He is beginning to build the Church into the glorious sons and daughters He originally created us to be. And with this reformation means change. For many years there have been many original understandings, revelations, and foundational doctrines of Christ that have been “missing” from much of the church body as a whole. This is a time of God transforming the foundations of His body and bride to be founded only on the solid rock of the Lord Jesus! 1 Cor. 3:11 “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

In order for this to happen though, we must be open to change. Then when the true foundation comes, we must be willing to get rid of the old one to make way for the new. I believe that the greatest need in the world is the unconditional, highest benevolent affection, agape love of God. Unfortunately right now that is also the greatest absence in the world. This is due largely in part because of the lack of knowledge of the nature of God’s love. Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

This book is designed to challenge the way you think, to help reveal the true foundations of God’s love to all people, and help every person be empowered in encountering the incredible love of God! My hope, prayer and desire is that the revelations contained in this book will help our family (the body of Christ) come back to its true and original foundation of being rooted, grounded, founded, established, and perfected in the agape love of God... Enjoy!

The Nature of His Love

Chapter 1

All of God is Found in Love

There was a period of my life where the Lord started stirring up my heart to seek Him, and to know His attributes. I would enter into my time with the Lord with thanksgiving, praise, and then worship. When I got to the worship part I would begin to worship God for the different attributes of His nature like goodness, joy, peace, kindness, favor, blessing, wisdom, etc. I quickly discovered that it seemed that there were many attributes of God that I never knew were actually attributes. This really sparked an even deeper hunger to want to know, and explore, the many attributes of God's nature. Then there came a point where one day the Holy Spirit showed me that there was only one fruit of the Spirit. In the Bible it says in 1 Cor. 12:4-6 that there are many gifts of the Spirit, ministries of the Lord, and activities of God. In Gal. 5:19 there are also works, or acts, of the sinful nature. But in Gal. 5:22 it says "fruit" (singular) of the Spirit. Not plural like the other verses...hmmm. I realized by the Spirit that the 9 attributes of God that are listed in Gal. 5:22-23 are only a few of the many attributes that come with the Holy Spirit. When we get the Holy Spirit we receive all the attributes of God in one package, or fruit! Within a few days after that the Lord brought 1 Cor. 13 to remembrance. I suddenly realized that all of the 9 attributes of God listed in Galatians 5 were either directly written, or implied, as being found in God's love!!

Instantly I began going into an encounter with the Father heart of God that massively overwhelmed my entire being!

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It would be challenging to describe in just a few words the overwhelming experiential manifestation of the love of God that occurred at that time, as God began to reveal to me that ALL of His attributes are actually found inside of His love!! That night, and for the next week, I would be overwhelmed constantly by various expressions of the Father's heart of love. From weeping and mourning over the hurting, lost, and broken with an intensity I had never experienced before; to the overwhelming pleasure, and ecstasy, of the most pure and unconditional love I had ever experienced. Followed by great periods of revelation and downloads of the nature of His love that would often lead to more encounters. And I am very thankful to say today that these experiences haven't stopped, but have only increased since then! My prayer for you right now is that even as you continue to read, that you too would be overwhelmed by the endless and infinite expressions of the Father's heart of love, that you may know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge!!

The Fruit of The Spirit is Love

Let's take a look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NIV

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. (5) It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (6) Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. (7) It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (8) Love never fails."

And also 1 Cor. 13:5b-7 NKJV says love:

"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."

Now let's look at Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness and self-control."

Now take some time and compare these two versions of 1 Corinthians 13 with Galatians 5:22-23.

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You can find all of the 9 attributes of God listed in Galatians being defined as love in 1 Corinthians 13 (either directly or by implication). You can also find multiple other attributes of God being defined as love in this passage as well, including faith, hope, trust, truth, and more! To make this easier there is a list below of the 9 attributes of God from Galatians 5, with the references to the parts from 1 Cor. 13:4-8 where I found them. After that is another list of some other attributes of God found in 1 Cor. 13 (directly written or implied) that are not listed in Galatians.

Here is the first list, and a little explanation for how I separated the different parts of the list. The first part is taken from different sections of 1 Cor. 13 (both versions). The second part lists which of the 9 attributes from Galatians 5 is written or implied here. There are also explanations included with some to help explain how they are connected:

1. Love (Love)
2. Love is patient (Patience).
3. Love is kind (Kindness)
4. Love does not envy (Self-control). It takes self-control to not envy something another person has or does. It is his love that gives us power over self.
5. Love is not rude (Gentleness) Rudeness and roughness go hand in hand. So the opposite of that is to be gentle in love.
6. Love thinks no evil (Goodness). A purely good God could never think evil of one He loves, but only good thoughts all the time.
7. Love is not easily angered (Peace) A peaceful God of love is not easily angered, nor is one who is at peace with God.
8. Love rejoices with the truth (Joy). It takes the joy of love to rejoice!
9. Love never fails (Faithfulness). A faithful God of love will never fail His people.

That's all nine!

But it gets even better, it also says LOVE:

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1. Does not boast (Meekness)
2. Is not proud (Humbleness)
3. Is not self-seeking (Selfless or Unconditional)
4. It keeps no record of wrongs (Forgiveness/Mercy)
5. It always protects (Protecting)
6. It always trusts (Trusting)
7. Believes all things (Faith/Believing)
8. Hopes all things (Hope)
9. Endures all things (Enduring)

Which is at least 9 more major attributes of God that are found in love, including all of faith and hope!! That is INCREDIBLE! Lord Your love is amazing!

This began hours and hours; and days and days of revelations, encounters, and experiences with the unconditional and extravagant love of God! As I said before I quickly began to realize that ALL of God's attributes are found in His love! Which means that for years I, like many others, had learned many wrong understandings and false perceptions of the nature of God. The Lord began to show me that one of the biggest reasons that so many have misrepresented and misguided people concerning His nature is because we have been building on an incomplete, or partially right/partially wrong foundation. Many believe that God is love, joy, peace, justice, mercy, wisdom, etc. As if all the attributes of God were all separate from each other, in a straight line, and love is a little bit greater than the rest. This wrong foundation of God's nature makes it easy for us to wrongly perceive who He is, because it separates the attributes of His nature from His love, and from each other. This was also taught to me many times in the past as if God was some kind of split-personality being that one moment He loves you, and the next moment He wants to punish you, because He's just, and you just sinned. As if these attributes had nothing to do with each other.

But after this experience I began to know that the true foundation of Christ is that God is LOVE, and in His LOVE is: joy, peace, wisdom, excellence, majesty, perfection, justice,

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kindness, and every other attribute of His nature. Meaning that the greatest, most defining characteristic, word, and attribute of God is: LOVE! His love is excellent, His love is kind, His love is compassionate, His love is just, His love is merciful, His love is peaceful, and so much more! It also means that the nature of God is not a bunch of attributes in a straight line, and separate from each other. The nature of God is more like a circle of LOVE, and in that circle are found: joy, peace, patience, wisdom, mercy, truth, pleasure, justice, power, and much more! Wow! No wonder why 1 John 4:16 says “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.”

Now this may not seem like a big deal at first, but believe me when I say that it changes the understanding of those attributes greatly. When we look at every attribute of God as being found in His love, we can see the depth of God’s heart of love behind each and every attribute. It also doesn’t mean that everything that’s been taught of His nature currently is wrong. Besides the bad teachings, I’ve also heard some really truthful and amazing teachings of the nature of God as well. I believe knowing God’s attributes in His love though will help us more rightly know our Father’s heart of love, while also helping clear up many of the common misconceptions of God that are running rampant in the church today. I’ll give you one example of many more in this book:

Love is Merciful

Let’s look at God’s mercy.

Psalm 51:1 NIV:

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;”

Mercifulness is an attribute of God’s love. God has mercy on us according to His heart of unfailing love for us. The definition of mercy to many is that it means: to relent a deserved punishment, or to forgive someone’s debt. God’s mercy has been

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viewed by some as meaning that we need to cry out, and beg for forgiveness, so that the great almighty God might relent from punishing us for our many, many sins. As if God was saying, “Ahh you’re lucky I’ll forgive you guys today, cause I’m in a good mood and you cried out long enough. But don’t test My patience, or next time I might have to punish you for all your many, many sins.”

Agape love (God’s love) is an unconditional love that always seeks the highest goodwill of another, without requiring anything in return. And not only does it not require anything in return, but even seeks the absolute best for all people, including its greatest enemies. That’s why Jesus said:

Matthew 5:44-45:

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, (45) that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

Paul said in Rom. 5:8 “While we were still sinners Christ died for us.”

Mercy defined and understood in the context of the agape love of God is so much different. God loves us sooo much that even when we were at our worst, and hated Him the most, He sent Jesus to die for us. He did this so that He could forgive us of all sin, and remove all of our punishment the moment we accept Him. In fact He did that before every person on the earth today was even born! Then His love took it even further when God decided that it wasn’t enough to just forgive us, and relent our punishment, but He loves us so much that He even forgets all our sins the moment we accept Him, as if none of them ever even happened (Heb. 8:12)!! Wow! It’s like God saying, “Hey don’t worry about it, I forgive you, and not only do I forgive you, in fact I don’t even remember you ever doing that. I love you so much I could never see you doing anything wrong, because you’re made in My image, and are as righteous as I am (2 Cor. 5:21 and 1 John

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3:9). And I would never want anything to stand between My love for you, so let's just forget about it...What were we talking about again? Oh yeah, how great you are in My love..."

He's such a good Father! See God doesn't want to just forgive a deserved punishment, His love desires to forget that there was ever any wrongs done at all, and to only think about all the good things He placed in us. That's why God forgets all our sins, and relents all our deserved punishment, the moment we ask forgiveness! You ever hear the phrase "love is blind." That's because when you're truly in love with someone it causes you to see past all the faults and weaknesses of the person as if they aren't even there. That's the way God loves us. He sees past all our faults, weaknesses, and sins, and instead chooses to constantly be infatuated with all the goodness that He placed in us! What a great God! Also the Bible says that God delights in showing mercy (Micah 7:18). Which means that it brings joy and delight to God's being whenever He has the opportunity to show mercy to His beloved children. There's no more reason to fear coming to God for forgiveness, because He delights in showing His merciful love to us! Now that sounds a little bit more like mercy with the foundation of God's agape love!

Love is All in God

There is much more that I could say about God's mercifulness, and there are many more attributes yet to cover, but for now I want to share some more Scriptures to help show that all of God's attributes really are found in His love:

Eph. 3:17-19:

"that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (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."

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So according to this passage we are to be rooted and grounded in love. That word grounded in the Greek means “founded”. Which means the foundation (or root source) of all that we are and do is God’s love! Wow! And this is so that we may be able to comprehend (understand) the width and length and depth and height of God’s love, that we may be filled with all the fullness of God. Meaning that we must first be founded in God’s love, and only then can we begin to understand the supreme vastness of God’s love, because His love is the measuring line for the height, width, depth, and length of all that He is! Which also means that we can only be filled with the measure of God’s fullness, that we are filled to the measure of the fullness of His love!! Because everything that God is, is found inside of His love!! Woohoo! Thank You Jesus, Father, Holy Spirit for how immensely incredible and spectacular Your love is!!!

Here’s another Scripture:

Phil. 1:9-11 NIV:

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, (10) so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, (11) filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God.”

This passage reveals that the knowledge and insight of God’s love is the key to be able to discern what is best, be pure and blameless until the day of Christ (without sin), and be filled with the righteousness of Christ. Which means knowledge, righteousness, purity, discernment, and blamelessness are all fueled by, and found in love! It also means that the key to overcoming sin is the love of God!

And another:

Col. 3:12-14 NIV:

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. (13) Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances

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*you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (14) **And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*** (boldness added)

Here is a list of some of God's attributes that we are to carry and walk in as believers. If you notice, almost all of those attributes we saw earlier in 1 Cor. 13 being defined as love. At the end Paul says that over them all we need to walk in love, because love is what binds them all together in perfection. Love is God's gloriously binding "glue" that keeps every other part of Himself together and working perfectly! Haha.

Here's some good ones:

Matt. 22:35-40:

"Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?' (37) Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Gal. 5:14:

"The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Rom. 13:10:

"Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

1 Tim. 1:5:

"Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith."

Wow! So the greatest commands of the law is to love! Not only that, but the purpose of the entire law, the prophets, and every other command of God is: LOVE! Which is even more

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astoundingly great proof that all of God's attributes are found inside of His love! If God's attributes were separated from each other, then Jesus would not be able to say that the entire law is summed up by love. If righteousness, peace, wisdom, mercy, justice, and the other attributes of God were found outside of His love, then it would take more than just love to fulfill all the commandments of God. But because all of God's attributes are found inside of His love, by walking in love we will fulfill everything that God wants us to be and do!

Almost there:

1 Cor. 16:14:

"Let all that you do be done with love."

Everything we do should always be done with love, and nothing we do should ever be done without it. It's as if we are in an eternal tango with love, and are to be overflowing expressions of that love at all times. Every work of God is a work of His love!

Last one:

1 Cor. 8:1:

"Now concerning the eating of things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies."

Knowledge outside of love will puff a person up, and make them proud. Knowledge founded and perfected in God's love will always edify, or build people up. It is the knowledge of God's love that builds us up into His image! Even knowledge outside of love can actually cause more harm than good. No wonder why there's so much division in the family and church of God today. Too many are building their life on doctrines of knowledge without love, instead of letting God's unconditional agape love be the supreme foundation of all that we do together as one family in Christ!

There are many more revelations, experiences, and Scriptures to go through, but for now let's do a quick summary of some of the main points so far: Love is the foundation, root, height, width, length, depth, perfection, bond, motivation, and

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fullness of all that God is. It is also only through love that we will be able to understand His attributes, knowledge, be pure, walk blamelessly, discern what is best, edify one another, have faith, have hope, trust God, be humble, fulfill the law, and so much more! Wow!! Also God's nature is not love, joy, peace, vengeance, wisdom, etc, as separate attributes. That kind of view can see God's attributes as being more individually separated, and in something like a straight line. (Though there are many other views that people have of God's nature besides this one, that are also incomplete/not fully accurate) Instead God's love is like a big circle. The circle is His LOVE, and inside of the circle is every other attribute of His nature: joy, peace, patience, mercy, wisdom, honor, righteousness, holiness, justice, power, etc. All founded, perfected, held together, unified, and rightly understood in love! Love is the all in all of everything that God is! This is a much more accurate and truthful way of seeing God's nature.

Take some time now and think about these things. How awesome is it that God really is love? What does that mean about your relationship with Him? Are there things that you've believed about God that don't reflect a God who loves you unconditionally, seeking your highest good at all times? Do you think that this changes the understanding of the attributes of God? Are there attributes of His nature that you may not have looked at as being from a heart of love? Ask God to show you His truths in these situations. Selah 😊

Before we go on, just in case you've never accepted this amazing God of love into your life before, or if you've fallen away from Him, I want you to say this prayer with me:

“Father, I ask that you would reveal the awesomeness of Your love towards me. I ask you to forgive me of any sins that I've committed. I ask you to come into my heart and make me new. I believe that Jesus died for me, so that I could live forever with You. Lord, help me experience Your love in ever-increasing measures now, and throughout all eternity. In Jesus name, Amen.”

The Nature of His Love

Chapter 2

All Things Were Created From Love and For Love

Hopefully by now we can all see that God really is love. So what else is there to know of this amazing love, and why have so many not known these things about God? First of all I think it's important to understand that God is the one who defines love, not man. There are many versions, opinions, and "definitions" of love that are in the world today. But none of them can even compare with God's definition of what His love truly is. Even the definition of the Greek word agape, which is the New Testament word for God's love, hardly even begins to reveal the infiniteness of the love of God.

Man often defines attributes by looking at each attribute as being separate from all the other attributes. God sees things much differently. Since all of God's attributes are found in His love, that means the definition of His love is far greater than what man has thought. God is the definition of love. Love is more than an attribute of God, it is the only attribute that actually represents His entire being. Every other attribute of God is an expression, or extension of His love. All of God's attributes add to the complete definition of His love. God's love includes every revelation of truth that is contained within His being. Love can never truly be experienced apart from God, for He is the source of all love. The definition of God's love is found in everything that God is, and everything that He does. His love is so infinite in scope that

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no dictionary on earth could possibly define it completely, for it fills eternity. Every manifestation of God's love represents a piece of the complete definition of who He is, because everything that He is, is Love.

So when we use the word "agape" to define God's love, know that the true definition of that word according to the mind of God is infinite in measure, and MUCH more complex than the Greek definition. There is no earthly language that even comes close to expressing the fullness of God's love. It is something that has to be experienced in order for us to know. The infinite expressions of the love of God are found in all the other attributes of His nature. His Love is Jealous, Excellent, Majestic, Holy, Righteous, Faithful, Vengeful, Just, Perfect, Encouraging, Correcting, Funny, Creative, Powerful, and sooo much more. Every attribute of God expresses His love in such a variety of different, and at times seemingly opposite ways, but they are all perfectly joined together as one nature: The Nature of His Love!

Now before we dive into the awesome revelations of God's nature of love, there are some things I want to mention real briefly to help you on the way. There is a 2nd major aspect of God's nature of love that is important for us to be aware of. Not only are all of God's attributes found inside of His love, but they are also all perfectly joined and unified together in love.

Col. 3:14 NIV:

"And over all these things put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

This Scripture is declaring that all the attributes of God are perfectly united, and found in love. This means that every time God's love manifests, ALL of the attributes are present in that manifestation, even if they are not directly visible. They are all perfectly united as one, so if love is there, so are all the other attributes. This is the second major aspect of God's nature that has been greatly misunderstood. As we went over before, many have seen God's nature as being something like a whole bunch of separate attributes in a straight line, and with love a little greater

All Things Were Created From Love and For Love

than the rest. Since all of God's attributes are found and perfectly united in love, that means it is impossible for any single attribute of God to only manifest by itself!

Now this goes very deep, so deep that it would take a whole separate book just to begin to really explain how this works. Because of this, and other reasons (including that many people already understand God's attributes as being separate anyway), I felt that it would be much better to focus more on how the attributes manifest individually, rather than corporately. There are times where I will explain some details on how they manifest together in love, but for the most part right now the goal is more to help you see that all of God's attributes really are found in His love. At the end of this book is a brief intro into the next part of the series that I plan to write (Lord willing) that will cover this next aspect of God's nature. I hope this doesn't confuse you, but hopefully by the end of the book you will have a clearer picture of what I mean by this. If not, you can always ask God about it, or wait until the next book comes out!

The second bunch of things I wanted to share before we go on has more to do with general info about this book. It is important to know that many of the revelations in this book are so deep and infinite in scope that I still barely understand them, so don't expect to understand everything just by reading it one time. Feel free to read it a few times if you want. This book also directly challenges a number of the false perceptions of God that are being taught in much of the church today. I encourage you to be open and humble to learning something new, even if it contradicts what you currently believe/were taught. Don't try to comprehend everything just with your mind, let God encounter your heart with His love, and make these revelations come alive to you. Take your time as your reading, and enjoy. Allow the revelations of His love to sink into your heart. If you don't understand something read it again, or keep going. You'll find that at least some of the answers you're looking for will be later on in the book, as a good portion of these revelations are so deep that they take multiple chapters to really start unfolding.

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Each chapter builds upon the previous one to help explain more things in detail, and lay more foundational truths.

Since many of the things discussed within the chapters are so large in scope, I've also included many references to other books and resources to help you grow in the knowledge of God in different areas/attributes. I believe He made us a body for a reason, and that we should be hungry to learn the different aspects of God's nature that He's revealed to others. But we should be even more hungry to learn directly from God Himself! That's why this book is also designed to help empower you in your own journey in discovering the infinite expressions of God's love! There are many activations in here to help you do so, so please feel free to take your time with them, and let God reveal Himself to you. Also, many of these revelations led to encounters with God being awed and amazed at how glorious He is for extended periods of time. So if God rocks you while you're reading, put the book down, and enjoy what He's doing! The book will still be there when He's done loving on you! God wants to bring His revelations to life by leading you into your own personal experiences with Him!

All Things are From, Through, In, and To His Love

God is the source of all things that have ever been created, all that is currently in existence, and all that is yet to be created. Everything that exists in creation was created out of the attributes of God's love. Which means that all of creation was originally created from love, with love, through love, for love, and to the glory of the eternal love of God!

Rom. 11:36:

"For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."

Rom. 11:36 AMP:

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. [For all things originate with Him and come from Him; all things live

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through Him, and all things center in and tend to consummate and to end in Him.] To Him be glory forever! Amen (so be it)."

Rom. 1:20:

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."

God's attributes are the creative force behind everything that has ever been created! They are also the source of all that God is. All that God is, and everything that God created, comes from His nature of love. Every created work displays different manifestations of the attributes of His love. So if you want to know what love looks like, look at God and His creation! Not only that, but everything that exists in creation actually dwells inside of His love.

Col. 1:17:

*"And He is before all things and **in Him** all things consist."* (boldness added)

Wow! All things consist, or exist, IN HIM! Many believers know that God is omnipresent, which means that He is present everywhere. But actually everything that exists in creation actually exists within His presence! So God isn't just present everywhere so to speak, but all things that exist, actually exist inside of the presence and person of God! For all things are IN HIM! Because God's nature is the original source of all life, everything created depends on living inside of the person of God in order to exist. No life can exist outside of God!

Acts 17:28:

"for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'"

Isa. 57:15a:

*"For thus says the High and Lofty One **who inhabits eternity**, whose name is Holy."* (boldness added)

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Jer. 23:24:

“Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?” says the Lord; ‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the Lord.”

Matt. 24:35:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

There is a common misconception that God only lives in heaven, and that heaven is His eternal dwelling place. God doesn't just live in heaven, or on the earth, but He is so big that His entire person fills all eternity! He makes His throne in heaven, and has the earth as a footstool, but He lives in eternity (Isa. 66:1-2). And heaven and earth dwell inside of Him! Even heaven and earth will one day pass away, and go back into the nature of God that it was created from. Then God will create a new heaven and a new earth from His own nature, which will also dwell inside of His person (Rev. 23:1). But God and His word will never pass away, change, or be re-created, because He inhabits eternity!

Think of it like you see God as an outlined spiritual being in the form of a man. Right around the middle of His chest area is where God decided to create heaven and earth, which are now like little tiny dots within the vastness of the eternal person of God. Which means that right now we are somewhere in the midst of God's eternal being! Wow! That'll make ya wonder... haha. How amazing is our God!!

Let me break it down in another way. In the beginning there was the eternal God. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, being the fullness of selfless love, decided that they needed to share their love with others. Since no one else existed they decided to create heaven and earth out of their own nature and being (Gen. 1:1, Rom. 11:36), and inside of their own nature and being (Col. 1:15-17). As if the creation dwells inside of the heart of God's eternal person. God decides to create angels, heavenly beings, created beings (such as animals, etc), and of course mankind. Then He makes His throne in heaven, and the earth for mankind,

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but He still dwells forever in eternity! All of which were created from love, through love, for love, and inside of His glorious love! Wow! Now that's deep! Which also means that in order for us to understand God, the creation, and who we are as His children, we must first understand the nature of His love!! Sounds pretty darn important to me, don't ya think?

The Two Natures

God's eternal purpose for mankind from the beginning was to have a family of sons and daughters that are just like Himself, and that He can share the various and infinite experiences of His love with for all eternity. God originally created all things to be manifestations of His love, but somewhere along the way things got outside of His original intention. It all started when the devil, then called Lucifer, sinned against God. But where did sin come from? If God is the source of all love and everything good, how did sin come into existence? Great question, and thank you for asking! Enter in nature number 2, the sin nature, which is the source of all evil. See God cannot sin, would never think to sin, and couldn't possibly even create sin because remember "love thinks no evil" (1 Cor. 13:5b). And 1 John 3:6 says, "And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin." God could never create sin, because sin isn't part of His nature.

What happened instead is that God created an environment where sin could come into existence through the free will choice of one of His created beings. You can compare this to a lighter. All of the components for the lighter exist in God's creation. However, the fire from that lighter does not exist unless someone comes along and strikes the lighter. That's what the devil did. He was the first to come along, and play with "fire". As a result he was the first to get burned by the consequences of sin. Then Adam and Eve were deceived by the devil and sinned against God, causing sin to manifest in people. Unfortunately, since then the sin nature has spread to many, and has worked through the

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devil to help accomplish it's will (Scriptural references 1 John 3:8, Rom. 5:12).

I will share a little bit more about the sin nature later in the book, but I think it's much more important for us to first learn more of the nature of God. For now what's important to know is that God's nature is the source of all love, and everything good. The sin nature is the source of all evil, and everything that is contrary to God's love. The sin nature cannot create anything, for only God can create. Sin can only pervert, corrupt, steal, and destroy what God created. That's why the devil comes only to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10), is because that's what sin does. And in case you're wondering sin does exist inside of God in a sense (cause all things are in Him), but it isn't a part of who He is. I like to compare this to poo-poo in man. The poo isn't part of who we are, but it does temporarily exist inside of us until it is properly disposed of...haha. Sin is the "poopoo" inside of God's being that I believe will one day be eliminated from existence (at least for the most part). That's gonna take one big toilet! hehe.

The Many Attributes of Love

There are many, many attributes of God. Most of these attributes I did not even realize were attributes until I started seeking God to know Him, and His attributes. There are a good number of His attributes listed in Scripture, but many of the attributes of God aren't listed directly in the Bible. The word attribute means: "something attributed as belonging to a person, thing, group, etc.; a quality, character, characteristic, or property."^{*1} Which means that every quality, characteristic, or expression of God comes from an attribute of His nature of love. Now I want to say that I don't actually know for certain how many attributes God really has. I don't believe He has infinite, though He could, and I do know for certain that He has at least 1,000's. I personally believe that there are quite possibly over millions of attributes of God, but I believe this because of many different

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experiences that I've had concerning His nature (so if you think that number is different, that's okay with me).

I honestly don't know for sure how many attributes He has, but I am certain that number is at least 1,000's. There's no Scripture that declares how many attributes God has, so the only way for us to know this is through divine revelation from the living God! And like I said, many of the attributes of God aren't even directly listed in Scripture. In fact, as you'll soon come to see, there are even a number of attributes of God that we don't currently even have a right word/definition for in the English language. Our current English language only defines words that man sees as possible, or relevant. With God all things are possible. So there are many things God can do that are not defined by the English language, and have not ever even been seen or heard of by man 1 Cor. 2:9-10. But God wants to reveal these things to His children. There are also many, many English words that are not properly defined according to the mind of God. We've already begun to see this with how God defines Love. Often times man will define words in ways that are very different or contrary to how God defines them. I know this may sound like a bit of a stretch to you, but I hope by the end of this book you'll at least begin to see why I believe there are so many attributes of God.

Now it's important to know as we continue in this that I will give many more Scriptural references throughout this book. Realistically though, the only real way any of us will ever get to know God, and understand His nature, is through a deeply intimate relationship with Him! God gave us His Spirit to help us know Him.

John 16:13:

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

The Holy Spirit is our guide into all truth. The Bible is a great source of truth, but God has never said that the Bible is the

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source of all truth. As we will soon see, God is an infinitely infinite God; meaning that inside of God there are infinite infinities and eternities worth of revelation and experiential knowledge. Which means that God is FAR TOO BIG to fit into a 1,000+ page book! And that's actually really good news! How boring would God be if He was so small that a small book could contain everything that He is? Don't get me wrong, I treasure the Bible as the most important book on the earth, and believe God gave it to us to help us know Him, but it is only through a personal relationship with God that we can ever truly begin to experience all the realities of His nature. The Bible contains some truth, but all truth is found in a person, and that person's name is Jesus! Without the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit helping us, we will never know and experience the infinite truths of God's love. So Holy Spirit help lead us and guide us into all the wonderful and infinite truths of Your love!

Everything God does comes from His attributes

Not only are there many more attributes of God than what I had known, or even currently know, but I have also been greatly amazed by the capabilities of what each attribute of God can do. For instance, one really amazing thing is that everything that God does, comes through ways that God manifests, and out of attributes that God is.

Psalms 103:7:

*"He made known **His ways** to Moses, **His acts** to the children of Israel."* (boldness added)

Rev. 15:3-4a:

*"They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: 'Great and marvelous are **Your works**, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are **Your ways**, O King of the saints! (4) Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone **are holy**.'" (boldness added)*

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If you look at Revelation 15:3-4 you can see the progression. It says “Great and marvelous are Your works...Just and true are Your ways...For You alone are holy.” His attributes are what manifest His ways, to bring forth His works. On the flip side, all of His works point to His ways, which always reveal the attributes of His nature.

Psalm 111:3 NLT:

“Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty. His righteousness never fails.”

See the Israelites knew some of the works of God, but they didn’t understand His attributes, or His ways, and that’s why they kept rebelling against Him. The heart of their rebellion was often rooted in a false understanding, or lack of understanding, of the loving nature of God. They would constantly accuse God of wrongdoing, saying it was better for them before God came into their life, and they were serving the Egyptians. Moses on the other hand knew the ways of God, and I believe He also understood at least some of the attributes of God’s glory. That’s why when Moses was on the mount his great request was “Please show me Your glory.” (Ex. 33:18) He understood that He needed to know the very person of God. That’s also why Moses was able to continually believe in the good nature of God, make requests of Him, meet with Him face to face, and even intercede on behalf of the Israelites numerous times, saving them from being destroyed. All because Moses knew some of the attributes of God’s glory, and some of the ways that He manifests Himself. So he had at least some foundation of understanding God’s nature to help him become more intimate with God.

His Glory is Love

Before I go on I want to share a quick understanding on what the glory is. The glory of God is the person of God. It is the other word in Scripture (besides love) that is meant to represent the entire person of who God is.

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2 Cor. 3:18:

“But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

When you look into a mirror what do you see? Your entire person. That’s why it says when we look into God’s glory, as in a mirror, we are becoming just like Him. Bill Johnson says, “We become what we behold.” When we look into the glory, or person of God, we become more and more like Him, because we were created in His image (Also see Heb. 1:3). In Exodus 33 and 34 when Moses asked God to show him His glory, this is what happened:

Ex. 34:5-7:

“Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.’”

So we see that when Moses asked God to show him His glory, that God’s person came down, and He began to proclaim His name to him. Thus signifying that His name speaks of His glory and person. Back then the meaning of your name represented who you are. That’s why God often changed people’s names to signify a change in identity. If you look at the description of God’s name there are a number of different attributes listed there. Some have mistaken God’s glory for only being His goodness. But in this passage there are a number of attributes listed including goodness, mercy, grace, longsuffering, and truth. This shows us that God’s glory is much more than just His goodness. Goodness is only one of many other attributes of God that are found in His glory, because all the attributes of God are found in His glory. So

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really the glory of God represents His love, because God is love. Glory and love are the 2 English words that basically sum up the entire person of God in one word. His glory is love, and His love is His glory.

However there is still one MAJOR difference between these two. I believe glory in this context is not necessarily referring to an attribute of God (there is another use of Glory that is attributive that also means “Honor”). I believe in this context that glory is referring to the entire person of God as a whole, not to an individual attribute. Whereas love is an attribute of God, but it is also the defining characteristic of all that He is. Love is the only attribute of God that actually sums up the entirety of all that God is. As we saw earlier, love is much more than an attribute of God, because it is the only attribute that contains every other attribute within itself. Which means that God is love, and every attribute of God is an attribute of His love! The glory represents His person, and His person is love! So hopefully that makes sense. I think it’s good to know that God is glory and love, and that all of His attributes are represented in both, but love is the supreme attribute of all that He is.

How the attributes of God Manifest

Here’s where things start getting even more interesting. I would like to share with you some very important revelations to understanding how the attributes of God manifest. We need to understand what the attributes are, how they manifest, what works they bring forth, and much more. This will enable us to understand the nature of God, and how He manifests in more complete ways. As I covered before, the attributes of God manifest in different ways, to bring forth the different works of God. Well that’s not all the attributes do. The attributes of God’s love are the source of ALL of His thoughts, desires, motives, intentions, imaginations, attitudes, value systems, words and more! And each attribute combines with all the other attributes to manifest these things in infinite measures!

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Heb. 4:12:

*“For the **word** of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow; and is a discerner of the **thoughts** and **intentions** of the **heart**.”(boldness added)*

Psalms 92:5:

*“O Lord, how great are Your **works**! Your **thoughts** are very deep.”
(boldness added)*

Prov. 16:2 NIV :

*“All a man’s **ways** seem innocent to him, but **motives** are weighed by the LORD.”(boldness added)*

Rom. 11:36:

“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

Matt. 12:34b:

*“For out of the abundance of the **heart** the mouth **speaks**.”(boldness added)*

As we went over earlier love “thinks no evil” (1 Cor. 13:5). God is the source of all good things, including all good thoughts, motives, intentions, emotions, words, ways and works. Everything that God is and does comes from the attributes of His nature. Therefore the attributes of God’s love are the source of every single good and loving thought, desire, motive, intention, value system, word, and work. These are what enable God, us, the angels, and everything else in all of creation to think, act, and speak good things. Without the attributes of God it would be impossible for us to think even one good thought! It is also the attributes of God’s love that help form us into the image of Christ, and enable us to experience Him in different ways. That’s why it says that God searches our hearts, because He wants to see if what is in our heart is of His nature, or of the other nature. The

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sin nature is the source of all evil thoughts, desires, motives, and more, but I will get to that later on.

I think it can be very helpful to understand this by looking at an example from everyday life. Compassion is an attribute of God's love.

Lam. 3:22:

"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."

Here is an example of what it looks like when the attribute of Compassion is present in a person's life. In a similar way to the lists in Chapter 1, I'm going to highlight certain parts in parentheses to show what manifestations of compassion are coming forth, like a thought, desire/emotion, motive, value, word, way, or work:

A guy is pulling out of his driveway, and on his way to work. He's in a bit of a hurry, because he's close to being late. As he's beginning to exit his neighborhood he suddenly sees a woman lying near the sidewalk with her foot severely twisted, and screaming in pain, with no one else around. Suddenly an overwhelming sense of compassion begins to flood the man's being as he thinks (thought), "Man I need to help that lady." A strong desire (emotion) of compassion comes forth in His heart to stop and help her, which overrides any concern of his need to get to work on time. This desire then brings forth an instantaneous pull to the side of the road (way & work), as he hustles to undo his seat belt, and exit the vehicle. He hurries towards the lady with sincere concern, offering his help (motives & words). She says that she was running and twisted her ankle on a rock; and that her foot is in extreme pain. The man then calls 911, and gives the info to their whereabouts. He stays with the lady until the ambulance arrives, and he knows that she's taken care of. As the paramedics begin to take her away he thinks to himself, "Well, I'm definitely going to be late to work now, but any price I might pay for it was worth it, stopping to help that lady was more important." (values) A sense of satisfaction begins to fill his soul.

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Do you see how the attribute of compassion helped the man to think compassionately? How the desires and emotions of compassion overrode any concern for his current situation, but instead he was compelled to action? Or how about the value he showed for helping someone in great need over getting to work on time? Do you think that the woman sensed the love and compassion that the man showed to her? It was the attributes of God's compassionate love that helped produced all these things. What do you think would have happened if instead of compassion, the man had a hardened and cruel heart? That situation could've turned out much differently. It was the attribute of compassion in the man that helped bring forth the compassionate thoughts, emotions, motives, values, words, ways, and works of love. A compassionate person will think compassionately, have compassionate desires/emotions, have compassionate motives, and bring forth works from a heart of compassion. Any time compassion is manifested in a person, the source of it is the attribute of God's love that is Compassion.

Notice also how I didn't say if the man was a believer or not? That's because the attributes of God can, and do, exist in pretty much all people, whether saved or unsaved. I haven't found a person on earth yet that didn't have at least some attributes of God somewhere in their soul, even though they may be covered up by a hardened heart of sin. That's because God gives us all a measure of grace (undeserved measure of His life), even to people who don't know, or even hate Him.

God's Grace to All

Rom. 12:6-8:

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. (7) if it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; (8) If it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern

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diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

The word for “gifts” here is the Greek word “charisma.” There are multiple meanings for that word, and this is some of them: “a gift of grace, a favor which one receives without any merit of his own; a divine enablement; spiritual endowment.”*² Grace is the manifested life of God. God’s life is found in His attributes. So what this Scripture tells us is that we all have been spiritually endowed, or divinely enabled, with different measures of the attributes of God in our soul, even from birth. Remember EVERY good thought, desire, motive, attribute, way, work, and more comes from the nature of God. So any person who has ever had any kind of good thought, desire, motive, value system, thing to say, or work that was done, was divinely enabled by God’s attributes, even if they never acknowledged Him as the source of it! Otherwise no one would ever do anything good, ever.

Just look at the list from Romans 12:6. Serving, encouraging, teaching, giving, leading, and showing mercy are all things that are found in everyday people, saved or not. These also are all attributes of God’s nature. God is the source of all good Serving, Encouraging, Teaching, Generosity, Leading, and Mercifulness. I think just about everyone who’s an adult has known at least 1 if not many people who were really encouraging, excellent teachers, very generous, or amazing leaders, and yet were atheists, or believed in some other religion. It was the undeserved or unmerited grace (life and attributes) of God that enabled those people to be able to do those things. Man was originally created in the image of God’s love, and though sin has also corrupted that image, there is still a measure of the likeness of God left in almost every person. In fact I’ve seen some unbelievers show greater displays of love towards others than some believers have! I know the Bible says that our righteousness is like filthy rags to God (Isa. 64:6), but that is referring to the self-righteousness that comes from the sin nature (or attempting to be righteous apart from God through the law), and not from the righteous

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attributes of God. God would never consider the works of His own attributes to be filthy rags!

Some people have mistakenly seen those who haven't accepted Christ yet as filthy rotten sinners with nothing good in them. God sees them for the glorious children that He originally created them to be (though they may be lost in their current condition). That doesn't mean that people will go to heaven because of God's attributes doing good works through them. What it does mean is that I believe good attributes of the nature of God can be found in the souls of most/all people, whether their spirit is born again or not. We still need the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from our sins to receive eternal life, regardless of any good works that are done. That's how people in the Old Testament were able to follow God and do good works, even though they weren't born again, or cleansed by the blood of Jesus yet. It was the attributes of God in them that enabled them to think, desire, speak, and live according to His nature, even if they at times fell short because of sin.

Psalm 104:28-30:

"What you give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. (29) You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. (30) You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth."

All of creation depends on the manifestation of the Spirit, attributes, and life of God to exist and live. Even the devil would not exist without a measure of God's Spirit holding his being together. It says in Heb. 1:3 that all things are upheld by the power of God's word. That means even the devil is able to still live because the Spirit and word of God hold his being together. But the sin nature has so overtaken the devil that he no longer has any of the attributes of God abiding in his soul, and therefore has no ability to do any good whatsoever, but only evil (see John 8:44).

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I believe that it's possible for this to happen to people as well, I just haven't met any people yet that I knew were completely overtaken by sin to that degree. It does say that in the days of Noah all the thoughts of man's heart were only evil continually (Gen. 6:5), which is pretty bad to know that so many people only thought evil all the time. There are a lot of selfish people in the world today, but for someone to only think evil all the time means that they would have to be very evil-minded, and only God truly knows where a person's heart is. Not only that, but just because a person constantly thinks evil doesn't mean there isn't some good in them hidden away somewhere. It's best for us not to judge, but instead to look for the glory of God in every person we meet. You might be surprised how easily some of the most hard-hearted people will open up through simple displays of the love of God, and all of a sudden you see a different side to their heart that you may not have thought was even there. It is His love that changes us!

Attribute of Knowledge

Since we've got a little better understanding of how God's attributes manifest, let's go over a few more, applying what we've learned so far. Many people know that God knows all things. Knowledge is not just something that God has, but actually knowledge is an attribute of God's love that He is. Knowledge exists because God is knowledge. All good knowledge comes from God, and is found in God. 1 Cor. 8:1b NIV "Knowledge puffs up but love builds up." It is His love that is the source of all knowledge, and knows all things! God has a knowledge of evil, but He is not the source of evil. Paul said this to the Colossians:

Col. 2:2-3 NIV:

"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, (3) in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

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Notice how it's by us being united in love that we can attain to all the riches of the knowledge and understanding of God's mysteries. For all the treasures of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding are found within the person and love of God! (Eph. 3:17-19)

Though God knows all things He doesn't just sit on a white puffy cloud looking down at us with a stern and haughty tone saying, "Obey me you weaklings who don't know anything! Hahaha. I'm God, so bow down to Me cause I know all things and you don't!" Remember knowledge outside of love puffs up, and makes you proud. Knowledge rightly founded and perfected in the love of God builds up, and makes you humble. Love is humble, and therefore the knowledge of God's love will always make us more humble.

God also knows all things because He is absolutely in love with all of His creation! In fact He loves us so much that He had to know every single moment of our lives before we were even born. He didn't want to wait to find out!

Psalms 139:16-17 NIV:

"your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (17) How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! (18) Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with You."

Acts 15:8:

"Known to God from eternity are all His works."

Wow! God knew every single moment of our lives before we were even born! Many couples are often excited when they find out the wife is pregnant. Excitement begins to brew as they begin to wonder, "Is it a boy or a girl? What name should we give him or her? Whose facial features will they have? What kind of things will they do as they grow up?" And on and on. Why? Because the parents, even before the child is born, are already falling in love with their new baby, and wanting to know what

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life will be like for their precious child. This kind of love is a mere glimpse of the manifestation of God's immense love for every one of us. He is so infatuated with every aspect of our lives that He had to know it all before we were even created! He had to know your name, what you'd look like, what your life would be like on earth, and so much more!

Not only that, but if you look at the second part of the verse it says that God's thoughts about our lives are more than the grains of sand!! Wow! Now if you were to count the number of grains of sand that are on the earth, that would be an incredibly large number, and yet God's thoughts toward us outnumber them by far! The truth is that God has infinite, or endless, thoughts of love towards every single one of His children. God doesn't just know what we are going to do, but He has many responses and thoughts of love about what we are going to do as well. Every time we do something God's love responds to what we do with many different thoughts, so that no matter what you do God always has numerous things to say about it before you ever even do it! And all of them are found in His love! Haha. He's so good!

Jer. 29:11 AMP:

"For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome."

It's also good to realize that God's knowledge is not just mere facts of intellectual ascent. The knowledge of God's love can only be known through personally experiencing Him. It is the love that surpasses head knowledge, and instead must be experienced in the heart.

John 17:3:

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

The word "know" there is the Greek word "ginosko"; which means to obtain knowledge by personal experience. Therefore

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according to what Jesus said here, eternal life is to personally experience the knowledge of God's love for all eternity!

1 John 5:11:

“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (12) He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (13) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

Eternal life begins the moment we accept Christ, and continues on throughout all eternity. It doesn't begin when we “die”, or transfer to the next age, because technically we already died with Christ. Col. 3:3 “For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

Which means that the free gift of eternal life that God has given us, is to experientially know Him in the infinite forms and expressions of His love, for all eternity! And this life starts the moment you accept Him as Lord and Savior! Woohoo! Endless love in every way!

Some people have seen God's all-knowledge as only meaning He knows everything that is going to happen. But actually God knows so much more than that! God not only knows everything that's going to happen in our lives, but He also knows every possible outcome of what our lives could've been, or could be. God also knows the impact that every single decision you make is going to have on your life, the lives of those you meet, the lives of people they meet, and on down the line. God saw every possible outcome of every situation and circumstance for your entire life, good or bad; and has gone ahead of you and thought up the best possible choices you could make. He then waits for us to turn to Him so that He can reveal those best plans and choices to us.

Jer. 29:11 NIV:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans

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to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Mark 9:23:

“Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

Plans denote a possible outcome that God wants for us, not necessarily what is actually going to happen. God knows every possibility for our lives, but we must choose to believe in Him for them to actually happen. We have to choose to follow God’s plans (or possibilities) in order to experience the best life possible, not only for ourselves, but also for those around us. Even just one simple action could actually affect the destiny of millions of people, or more, over the period of several years. Think about it: You tell someone about Jesus and they get saved. They immediately lead 2 of their friends to Christ. One of those 2 friends over the next 20 years leads 1,000 people to Christ. That 1,000 people multiplies to over 100,000 over the next 15 years, and just one of them preaches and does crusades leading over 1 million people to the Lord. That’s not including all the other people that were healed, saved, delivered, impacted, disciplined, and/or transformed during that time period through one person being led to Christ! And this is not an unrealistic possibility, especially with the amazing God we serve.

This is because God sees every possible outcome and impact that every decision we make will have on every person’s life, for generations to come, on into eternity! (Now that’s deep!) 1 Cor. 12:7 says, “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” Every time God manifests His Spirit in our lives God sees the benefit that it could have for all people, for all eternity! Wow! What a big God we serve! And how great a need we have to make the best of our daily choices. He truly cares about even the smallest details of our lives. (This is also really comforting when we make mistakes, because we know God has already foreseen that mistake, and gone ahead of

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us to make good out of the situation, Rom. 8:28. This is also part of why you could never beat God in a game of Chess unless He let you win. Haha. He already knows every possible outcome the game could have!)

Now this one right here really gets me going! God also knows every possible desire, motive, thought, word, and action we could manifest in every single situation. (Feel free to take some time to think about this one) Have you ever been really excited or nervous about an upcoming event, like a public speech, a job interview, a live performance, a wedding proposal, etc? Ever notice how it seems like you could play endless scenarios in your mind of many possible outcomes of that event? Ever stay up for hours the night before going over different ways that you could say things, how it would feel to experience that, and what people's responses might be? That's how God is. In eternity He imagined and foresaw every possible thought, word, desire, work, and much more, that we could possibly have in every situation of our lives. As well as every possible impact that our choices could have on the lives of others. Wow! Then He knows which one of those possibilities is actually going to take place. Stop and think about it for a bit. Isn't our God incredible?! In fact, the only reason why we can even think about different possibilities like that is because God thought them first, and He is sharing His thoughts with us!

1 Cor. 2:16:

"But we have the mind of Christ."

Since God is the source of all good thoughts, every possible good thought and imagination we could have for every single situation, already exists in the mind of God. He already thought it out for us ahead of time in eternity. So when we imagine good possible outcomes for any situation, that is only possible because God is actually sharing His eternally good thoughts with us, even if we don't realize these thoughts are coming from Him! So if we ever think a loving, kind, good, compassionate, merciful, encouraging, creative, holy thought, God is sharing His thoughts

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with us! For all things are from Him, through Him, and all the glory goes to Him, remember? Now sin can cause us to think about all the negative possibilities, but if we are abiding in the Father's love, this will help us to think more from His mind instead. In the Old Testament God's thoughts were higher than our thoughts (Isa. 55:9), but in the New Testament His thoughts become our thoughts because He gave us His mind! This is one of many ways that we can experientially know God, by Him sharing His loving thoughts with us!

Now it would be impossible in this short little passage to explain the full capabilities of the attributes of God's love that is knowledge. So for now I'll leave you with a short testimony.

I heard a testimony that really encouraged me that can help illustrate the powerfulness of simple obedience to God, and how God knows how much our little steps of obedience can change many, many lives. There is a testimony of a man named Frank Jenner, who is also known as "The George Street Evangelist." Due to the length of the testimony I will only share a tiny summary of it here, I highly recommend you listen to the full length version, as it is very inspiring! Here is the summary:

Frank Jenner used to be in the Australian military, and was converted to Christ at that time. He decided to commit himself to God, and to commit to share a simple witness with at least 10 people a day for the rest of his life. After he retired he decided to move to George Street, in Australia, because of all the people that were regularly walking down that area. A number of years later a pastor in the UK was approached by a man after service who began to tell him of his conversion to Christ, and how he was saved after a little white-haired man on George Street had witnessed to him. This led to a number of successive events where this pastor from the UK began meeting several more people who were saved after being witnessed to by this man.

Eventually the pastor went to Sydney, Australia where he finally got to meet Frank Jenner. As he began to relay the testimonies of the different people that had come to Christ through this man's ministry, Frank began to weep. He said, "In

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16 years of doing this I've never heard of one person going on with the Lord until today." Frank would often stop someone and ask them questions like, "Sir are you saved? If you died tonight would you go to heaven, or to hell?" People had given their lives to Christ, but he had never known of anyone who continued to walk with the Lord. He traveled to multiple places around the world hearing similar testimonies from other major Christian leaders of an elderly white-haired man witnessing to them on George Street, some of which were now in charge of 1,000 or more other leaders/believers. One video says that it is estimated that over 146,100 people were saved or influenced as a result of that man's simple witness, and that is just the ones that they knew of. There are so many, many more that quite possibly were saved/influenced through this one man's commitment to share a simple witness with at least 10 people a day.

Praise and glory to God! You see how important our every day decisions are, and how much impact they can spread for the profit of all?! God knows these things, and it would not surprise me at all if many more than millions were eventually impacted by Christ through this man's witness, and the impact passed on to others over the years/generations (like the example above). Quite frankly this short little summary hardly does the testimony justice, you really should check out the whole testimony for a greater impact. You can find this testimony on my website, or by visiting YouTube or Google, and typing in "George Street Evangelist." May God help us to make the most of every opportunity we have, and realize the awesomeness of the potential impact that our lives can have on the generations to come when we walk with Him!!

In His Love is Power

This is another wonderful attribute of God to help us know that God is so much bigger than what we yet know. Love is powerful, and is the source of all of God's power! Since every work of God is a work of His love (1 Cor. 16:14), that means

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God's power is never manifested without His love. God's love is also incomplete without the manifestations of His power. 1 Cor. 4:20 "For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power." Since love is the foundation of God's power there has never been a single manifestation of His power that was not motivated by love. That's why the Bible says that when Jesus saw the multitudes He was moved with compassion and healed them all (Matt. 14:14). It is His love that compels Him to manifest His power in such glorious and infinite ways, and to help His people. God's powerful love is so incredible that it is beyond anything that we could ever imagine apart from Him:

1 Cor. 2:9:

"But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him. (10) But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.'"

Eph. 3:20 NIV:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

God's love is so immensely immeasurable and beyond comprehension, that God can do immeasurably more than what any person could possibly imagine apart from Him! Thankfully though, if you're born again the Spirit of God lives in you, and shares His mind with you, so that you can imagine it! That's why I said before that "we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16). Also if you look at 1 Cor. 2:9-10, it says that man doesn't know what God has in store for us, but we know (and can know) because God can reveal these things to us through His Spirit! Also if you look at Ephesians it says God can do way more than we can imagine by His power that works in us. Meaning that the things we could never imagine God doing on our own, God can reveal to us by His power that works within us. Not only that, but He after He reveals the things that He can do by His power in us, He can then even begin to do those things through us! How awesome is that?!

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There are many things that God can do that are so mind-blowing that I can still barely even fathom them. And yet even the things I do currently know that He can do, are only a tiny portion of the infinite capabilities of our awesome God!

Matt. 19:26:

“But Jesus looked at them and said to them, ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

All things are possible in the all-powerful love of God!

For instance check out these two verses:

Psalms 102:25-27:

“Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. (26) They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak you will change them, And they will be changed. (27) But You are the same And Your years will have no end.”

Isa. 34:4:

“All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll.”

Okay so first of all let me explain what the word “heavens” means in the Bible. There are many applications to the word heavens. In many verses the “heavens” describes not only the realms of the kingdom of heaven, but also the entire universe. That’s why it is sometimes translated sky, or universe in other versions of the Bible. In this context God is talking about the kingdom of heaven, and the universe. Now many people have a decent idea that the universe is billions of light years+ in size, and that each light year is over billions of miles in length. Which is very, very big! From what I understand about the kingdom of heaven, and have heard from others who have actually been to heaven, the kingdom of heaven is actually bigger than the universe. And it says in Hebrews that both of them are the works of God’s hands! If God’s hands can create something that enormous, what the holiness can His arms do?!! It also says here

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in Isaiah 34 that God will roll it all up like a scroll!!!! Whoa!! Or in Psalms 102 it says that God will change them like a garment!! That is incredible! That means God is SO POWERFUL that it is as easy for Him to un-create, and re-create, the entire universe, and the entire kingdom of heaven, as it is for us to roll up a scroll, or change t-shirts. Hahaha. Wow!!! Holy God You are incredibly beyond compare and worthy of all glory! Oh the things that we have yet to know of you!!

Revelations like these leave me in awe of the supreme love, power, majesty, knowledge, abilities, and greatness of the incredible and everlasting God! He is beyond compare! It's revelations like these that make a brotha wanna give a shout of praise-woohoo!! And God is our eternal Father! Ain't no person on earth can beat my Daddy...hahaha. You're amazing Father God!

See what I mean by I still barely even fathom these things? And these things are just a whisper of what God can do. Job 26 also talks about God creating heaven, the earth, and more. Then it says in Job 26:14 "Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, And how small a whisper we hear of Him!" If the kingdom of heaven and the universe is just a whisper of God, what the holiness does a conversation look like?!!! If these are the mere edges of His ways, and we're just beginning to scratch the surface, how much more is God capable of?! I think you're starting to get the point. If that doesn't leave you in child-like awe of the awesomeness of God, I don't know what will!

This leads me to another point that I'd like to make about God in light of His incredible love. It is quite astonishing to me how many people in the body of Christ go around so puffed up at "how much they know about God." Somehow, some believers think that because they went to a 4 year seminary school, got their master's in divinity, or have been in the ministry for 30 years that they are now experts in the knowledge of God. I hope that after going over these things that you can see that it is quite foolish to think such things. It is arrogant, proud, and insecure of us to think that because we've gotten a little bit of education,

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done a little bit of studying, listened to some of brother so and so's messages, that all of a sudden we are experts about God. How could we be so deceived to think that we know so much, when God is going, "Dude, you haven't even heard a full whisper yet." We need to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God's all-powerful love and become like little children in heart. This is a huge part of why there is such a lack of the knowledge of God in the body of Christ today.

James 4:6b:

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Matt. 18:4:

"Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

It is child-like awe and humility that attracts the love, grace, power, greatness, and attributes of God. Little children are so wondrous and open to the things of life. They are curious as to what life is really all about, how life works, what things are, etc. And they're not afraid to ask many, many questions of their parents. They recognize they have so much to learn, and are excited to be taught much more. They also aren't afraid to be wrong, make mistakes, or change what they believe. This is the kind of heart we need to have if we're ever even going to begin to really understand the nature of our Father's love. Without an open and humble heart we will hardly even begin to walk in the infinite knowledge of God's love.

1 Cor. 8:2-3:

"And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. (3) But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him."

Now I am not ashamed to tell you that I barely know anything, and actually the more I've learned of God, the more I've realized how little I know Him. On top of that the more I learn, the more I see how many complete lies, partial lies, and

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wrong foundations I've been taught by others that I've had to unlearn. These lies came not only from the world, or the public educational system, but also from the church. Jesus said that it's truth that makes us free (John 8:31-32). We may not be certain about everything there is to know of God, but it is by loving God that we are known by Him.

Even though we may not fully understand Him, if we still choose to love Him in the midst of our lack of understanding, we can rest secure in His love. Bill Johnson says, "If you give up your right to understand, God will give you the peace that surpasses understanding." There are many things that I have even taught others that I thought were right, but I later had to repent for, because I was wrong. There is so much more that we have yet to learn as a body, and if we're not willing to be flexible, humble, and open to learning new things (even if they contradict what we thought was right, or were taught from others) we will never experience all that God has for us. How about we humble ourselves together and ask the Lord to lead us into all the infinite truths of His love?!

So why not take some time and give worship unto God for how incredible He is! Ask Him to help you be humble and childlike, and seek to know Him for who He is. Ask Him to reveal the infinite knowledge of His love towards you. Think about some of the things we went over so far. If you feel like there's been areas of pride, arrogance, or insecurity in your life, repent and ask God to fill those areas with the attributes of His love. Be humble and enjoy the process, we have so much more to go!

More Resources:

Bobby Conner "God's Supernatural Power"

"The Dancing Hand of God" by James Maloney

"Experiencing God's Power" by Smith Wigglesworth

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Chapter 3

Discovering The Attributes Of Love

Now I want to go over some different ways to help discover the attributes of God and how they manifest. There are endless ways to discover God's attributes and I have only found a few of those ways. So if God teaches you other ways that work better for you, by all means go for it, but these can at least help get you started.

After receiving the revelation that all of God's attributes were found in His love, I began going over different attributes of God that I already knew, but would allow God to redefine them for me with the foundation of His love. He would often do this by filling my mind with His revelations as I would spend time with Him in thanksgiving, praise, and worship. I would thank God for what He's done, and praise and worship Him for who He is. When I was worshipping though, is when I would take time to meditate on individual attributes of His nature. I would begin to think, ask, imagine, and more with God about what it's like to be in love. When you love someone as much as you possibly can, it changes many of the expressions of the things you do. Things that you would normally do without much joy or pleasure at all, can all of a sudden be very exciting and captivating when you're in love. It can also cause you to feel very protective towards the person you love. It can make you willing to come against, or destroy, anything that would harm you're beloved.

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This way of thinking would help me to receive revelation from God of how much He loves His children, and what the different expressions of that love look like. I would think about things like, “What does authority look like, if all authority is found in perfect love?” And often times revelation would then come like, “Love that manifests authority, only manifests authority for the sake of love. The authority of God is exercised against anything that would try to come against, or defy His love.”

Prov. 20:28 NIV:

“Love and faithfulness keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure.”

God doesn't just have authority so He can carelessly do whatever He wants. Instead He only uses His authority to fulfill the will and purposes of His heart of love! God would never use His authority outside of love, simply because He feels like destroying someone, or because He can. Look at Jesus' life. If there's anybody who's ever walked the earth who could've destroyed His enemies with a word, picked up mountains in public view just to show off, and made people worship Him regardless of their choice it's Jesus. And yet He did none of that. In fact He even said when the soldiers came to arrest, torture, and kill Him, that He could've called 12 legions of angels to come, but He didn't (Matt. 26:53 Jesus was implying that He could easily have wiped out all the soldiers instantly through one command). And He did a similar thing when two of His disciples asked to call down fire from heaven to destroy a Samaritan city, because they rejected Jesus. Jesus rebuked them saying that He came to save men's lives, and not to destroy them (Luke 9:51-56). Though Jesus did manifest His authority to heal people, multiply food, raise the dead, cast out demons, and more. He manifested His authority in love to help others, and to destroy the things that were attempting to harm those He loves. And He still manifests authority like this through believers today.

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Acts 10:38:

“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

He came to destroy the devil’s work, not to destroy people. He came to manifest His love towards people.

Okay so you see how easy that is? Even if all I got was the first couple sentences, it would cause me to light up with the revelations of His love. Then it would often lead to God showing me specific examples from the Bible, testimonies that I’ve heard, or even my own life experiences with Him, that demonstrated these revelations. With each new attribute it would bring more and more understanding of the nature of God’s love, and why He does the things He does.

So now you do it. Take some time, and start to think of some of the attributes of God’s nature like joy, peace, favor, encouraging, justice, etc. Now begin to imagine that if you were completely in love with someone, and you were experiencing that attribute, what would that look like? How would it amplify or change the way you feel, see, and think about that person? What kind of actions would that kind of love cause you to do, or want to do? Now apply what you learned in your relationship with God. How does that help you know God’s love towards you more? How about God’s love towards others? Are there any experiences that come to mind that go with what God showed you? (Feel free to take your time and go over multiple attributes. Also remember that we are talking about a love that unconditionally seeks the highest good of another, not a conditional love)

Attributes in the Works of God

As we already went over, some of the attributes of God are directly listed in the Bible by name (like Gal. 5:22-23, 1 Cor. 13:4-8, etc). But there are other ways to discover God’s attributes through the Bible and daily life. By examining the works of God we can always see His attributes at work.

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Psalms 111:13 NLT:

“Everything He does reveals His glory and majesty.”

Everything God does reveals ways that He manifests, and attributes of His glory. So whenever God does something we can look to see what attributes of God are being displayed through that work.

Here’s an example of God’s attribute of love called Providing (Gen. 22:14): Let’s say that I am praying before the Lord and feeling burdened because I have some bills due today, and no money in the bank yet to pay them. As I’m praying though, I can sense God’s peace begin to come and lift the burden. Suddenly my telephone rings and a friend of mine is on the line saying, “Hey man the Lord just told me to call you, is everything okay?” So I share the current situation that I’m in and my friend says, “Dude, I just got a big bonus from work and was wanting to give some away. I can help you pay your bills!” Thank You Jesus!

Now if I were like the Israelites wandering through the desert I would probably be thankful for the temporary provision, but as soon as another need came up, I’d be back in panic mode. But if I catch the revelation of the Father’s love towards me as my Provider, I will now have an understanding and expectation for God’s provision to come the next time I’m in a similar situation. The catch here though is that I may only see one way that God provides from this one circumstance (through my friend getting a bonus). Maybe the next time I have a need God wants to provide for me in a different way (like me finding money somewhere, a check in the mail, or something like that). But if I don’t understand that God has many ways He can provide for me, I might start losing faith if my friend isn’t able to help me again, because this time God has a different way He wants to provide for me.

That’s why we need to know the attributes of God, and the many ways they can manifest. The works of God should bring revelation of His ways, that cause us to seek Him to know His attributes. The attributes then reveal the thoughts of God’s

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heart, which help us to understand why He provides, and not just how. The why question, or the motivation of what He does, can also really help us to know and trust Him more completely. Maybe in this situation I could catch a revelation that God will always provide for me unconditionally because He loves me as His son. This will help me have more faith in God's provision, even if I'm not sure how it will come. That's why having love as the foundation of every attribute is so important. It causes every motivation and thought of those attributes to be from a heart of love.

When we know God's heart about something, we may not know exactly how (the way) He's going to bring about His will (or works), but we can have faith that He will do something because we know His heart. Knowing all 3- His attributes, ways, and works is even better! (By the way God's name as Provider comes from the attribute of His love called Providing. And God is not just our Provider, but since everything good comes from Him, He is also our Provision!)

Attributes Seen in People

Another cool way to discover what the attributes of God are is to look at people. Every word, action, thought, desire, and way that people live that is of a good or loving nature is from God. Therefore if I was to look at people throughout the day and examine the things they do, say, express, etc, then I could get revelation from God about His attributes. (Though you can also see the other nature at work in people this way too)

Though we can see the attributes of God in the lives of adults, one of the best sources of this kind of revelation I believe is little children. Little children are some of the purest sources of what the attributes of God look like when they're not hindered, or tainted by sin. Now I'm not saying that all children are perfect, or that they don't manifest sin, but since we are all born with a measure of God's attributes formed in us, often times

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these attributes are very apparent in children because of their innocence.

There is an attribute of God's love called Childlikeness. I remember that as I was learning more of the nature of God, the Lord told me I needed to pay more attention to children, and watch what they do. Some of the most impactful revelations of God's nature have come from watching little children. That's because God is the most childlike being there is!

Matt. 18:4:

"Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Luke 18:16-17:

"But Jesus called them to Him and said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. (17) Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.'"

Wow! So whoever is the most childlike is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Well guess who the greatest in the kingdom of heaven is? God! He's the greatest, the most humble, the most child-like, and at the same time the wisest of all! That's why Jesus said unless you become like a little child you can't even enter the kingdom. He's saying "Unless you become like Me, you will never enter My kingdom." God is the biggest "kid" there is!

In the world there is such a sense of false-maturity, rooted and grounded in insecurity. Often times the older people get the more stale, boring, and "mature" they become. The truth is that often times the older people get in the world, the more their innocence and freedom is lost by allowing other people to tell them who they are, instead of being who God created them to be. Resulting in more of their God-given identity being lost in exchange for living a lie of false identity and false maturity. If you're a believer though, you're not of this world! So that means the wiser and more mature in God we become, the more child-like we should also be. Hehehe. It's not one or the other, it's both!

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1 Cor. 14:20:

“Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.”

Children are very humble, pure, teachable, loving, caring, kind, and really, really love having fun. So what does that tell you about God? It is the attributes of God in children that cause them to be that way. That’s why so many people fall in love with their children so easily. They sense the attributes of God’s love flowing from that child (whether they realize it or not), and it connects with their heart, reminding them of how life is really supposed to be. Free, loving, and fun! We were all created for the unconditional and incredible love of God. And His love can be experienced through people. So when children show their parents unconditional love, it reminds them of the true nature of God’s love that we were all created to experience. So let that child-like nature come forth and start acting like a kid again!

Attributes Seen in Creation

Creation is a wonderful way to discover the attributes of God.

Rom. 1:20 AMP:

“For ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature and attributes, that is, His eternal power and divinity, have been made intelligible and clearly discernible in and through the things that have been made (His handiworks). So [men] are without excuse [altogether without any defense or justification],”

All of creation was created from the nature of His love, and was created to display His love. Right now the creation cries out for the glory of God to be more fully manifested in it (Rom. 8:20-22). The creation was originally created from, through, and for the glory of God. But sin came in, and has corrupted much of God’s originally glorified creation. There is still a measure of His glory seen in the earth, and universe, it’s just not the full measure that it originally had. It’s important to also note that

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not everything we currently see in creation is still from God's nature. Things like bacteria, viruses, sickness, death, pollution, and different species on earth weren't a part of God's original creation, but are a result of sin/being separated from God. So when looking at the creation, just like when looking at people, it is only the good things that display the attributes of God. The evil, or corrupted things, are the result of sin.

Job 38-41 is a great section to read of God describing how he formed different animals, planets, and aspects of His creation. He talks about how He restricted wisdom and understanding from the ostrich so that it would do foolish things; and how He created the horse to be strong and fearless. It also has a number of other examples. Everything God created originally came from the attributes of His love, and therefore can still display different measures of the image and nature of God.

Attributes are Eternal

Heb. 13:8:

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”

Rev. 19:10b:

“For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

As far as I know all of God's attributes are eternal, because God is eternal. I believe that the only 2 attributes that might not be eternal are faith and hope, but I'm not certain that this is true. In eternity faith will give way to sight, and hope to fulfillment, but that doesn't mean that God won't still be able to manifest those attributes somehow in other parts of His creation. There is no end to His attributes, and almost all of His attributes never stop manifesting in infinite ways. There are a small amount of manifestations/attributes of God like wrath, anger, sorrow, grieving, etc, that I believe are “responsive attributes.” They are different from the other attributes of God in certain ways which I will share more about later on in the book.

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Generally speaking though, if God is providing, He will always provide. If He is compassionate, He will always show compassion. If He is healing, He will always be manifesting His healing (That's why there's no sickness in heaven, His healing manifests there always). As far as I know, all of God's attributes besides maybe faith and hope, and His "responsive attributes," continue to manifest for all eternity, and in infinite ways. To be honest, this is a big part of why I am astonished when people somehow think that God ever stopped healing, working miracles, prophesying, revealing Himself, visiting people, and more, at any point in time.

The Bible has many miraculous events, visitations, healings, revelations, angelic activity, and much more from beginning to end. And it didn't stop with Jesus or the early apostles. Just because the Bible ends with the book of Revelation doesn't mean the Word of God stopped too. The Word of God is Jesus (John 1:1-4), and the expressions of His nature are far greater than any earthly book could contain. If you truly believe that God stopped doing those things with the early apostles, then you might as well say that God stopped being God after the early apostles died.

We shouldn't allow our current lack of knowledge, and/or lack of experience, to cause us to reject different aspects of the nature of God. By doing so we can actually reject Him, and a great portion of His purposes for our lives. Part of how the attributes of God manifest in our lives is through our knowledge and understanding of God's nature. So when we believe that God stopped manifesting certain attributes, we can actually willingly reject different attributes of God's nature from manifesting in our lives today, because of lies and unbelief! So if you haven't experienced God in all His infinite ways yet, welcome to the club! We need to be humble ourselves and realize that there's so much more of God yet to be discovered and experienced. We also need to be really careful about making wrong conclusions about God's nature based on things we've never experienced before. So if you haven't experienced certain aspects of God's nature yet, don't give up! God can bring the grace in our lives needed to experientially

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know Him in many more ways! Just because we haven't seen or experienced it yet, doesn't discount it as being possible for God to do today. Instead it simply means that He's a really BIG GOD, and we have so much more to experience than we have ever imagined (or even scratched the surface of!). And praise God that there's so much more of Him that we can experience now!

Since every attribute of God is eternal that also makes each attribute of God the most valuable things we could possibly have for all eternity. Jesus said "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Luke 21:33) God and His Word are one. The Word of God is Jesus. Jesus is saying that everything that is currently created will one day pass away, but He Himself will never pass away. The greatest things that we can possess are the very attributes of God's person, for they will never pass away! Gen. 15:1b "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

Now salvation is the greatest gift, but without the attributes of God manifesting we can't even be saved (see John 6:44). And it is being resurrected into the eternal life of God's love that makes salvation so incredible! Salvation also comes from the attribute of God that is Saving, or Salvation. Psalm 85:7 "Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation." This attribute doesn't just save us from our sins, but also saves us from many other things like demons, sickness, disease, death, torment, wrath, punishment, temptations, trials, sufferings, and more. Not only that, but God saves us into glory, love, power, wisdom, honor, courage, and so much more! It's not just what we are saved from that's important, but actually much more importantly is what we are saved into! We are saved into an eternal life of the infinite expressions of God's love! That's good news! There is much more on God's salvation we'll cover later, but for now let's continue to look at His attributes. (Remember everything God does comes from His attributes, so even God saving us is a manifestation of the attributes of His love.)

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Combining Attributes

One of the most amazing things about the nature of God's love is that because every attribute is found in His love, every time His love manifests all of His attributes are present. In fact there is never a single manifestation of God's love that doesn't involve multiple/all of the attributes manifesting at once! Every time the nature of God manifests we see a display of various manifestations of His love, expressed through His many attributes.

For example: When Jesus saw the multitudes needing healing, compassion rose up in His heart causing His authority to manifest, bringing forth the healing power of God. Now there are at least 4 attributes of love that I just shared being manifested all at once: compassion, authority, power, and healing. This brings a whole new dynamic to understanding the attributes of God, and the ways that they manifest. It also helps explain why there are infinite ways that each attribute can manifest, because there are infinite combinations of potential manifestations with all the other attributes (remember there are at least 1,000's of attributes of God, and possibly over millions).

God is Healing

So now let's take a look, using what we just learned, at some of the different attributes of God. Healing is not just a name of God, or something He does, it is an attribute of God that He was, is, and will always be forever. God is the source of all healing. Without God healing could never, and would never take place. But with God every kind of manifestation of healing is possible! It is His love that heals us in every way!

Ex. 15:26b:

"For I am the Lord who heals you."

Matt. 8:16-17:

"When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and

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healed all who were sick, (17) that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.'”

Psalms 103:3:

“Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.”

Isaiah 53:5:

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”

Hosea 14:4:

“I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him.”

The healing of every part of our being spirit, soul, and body was paid for through the cross of Jesus. He paid for us to be healed of all sickness and disease through the stripes that He suffered. His love paid for our healing, and it is His powerful love that heals us today.

There are infinite thoughts/revelations to the attribute of healing, so discovering all there is to know of the healing nature of God is an infinite process. Since healing is such a big subject I plan to go over some of the issues that I think fit well with this book. In this particular section I wanted to cover some revelations of healing in direct connection to the attribute of healing. (Which by the way, every name of God in the Bible represents at least one, if not more, of the attributes of God's nature. So when God calls Himself our “Healer,” He is also letting us know that Healing is an attribute of His nature. His nature is the source of all healing.)

Obviously there is so much more revelation of healing than this little section, but I think there are some key things in regards to healing being an attribute of God that I think would be good to share here. I'm hoping that most of you reading already have

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at least some knowledge of God's healing power. If not there are references to resources at the end of the chapter that can help you know some of the more basic principles of healing, and how God manifests His healing through believers today. I highly recommend looking further into other resources if you want to learn more about God's healing, and how you can walk in His miraculously powerful love today!

First of all since God is healing, His healing attributes never stop manifesting. Which means that it is the healing of God that helped combine with other attributes to help create all things, the healing of God that exists even today in the creation, the healing of God that has continued to heal in miraculous ways throughout all of history, and the healing of God that will help keep us in divine life for all eternity.

There have been many miraculous healings that have been documented, not only in the Bible, but especially over the last 2,000 years. Healing did not end with the early apostles, and I myself have seen God heal many people miraculously through my prayers. I have also seen literally 100's of people see God heal someone through them for the very first time. Healing, quite frankly, is a very fun thing to be a part of, and is a great way for God to demonstrate His love to people. Even Jesus said that unless people see signs and wonders they will by no means believe (John 4:48). Paul also said to the Corinthian church that he did not come with clever wisdom, but with the demonstration of the Spirit and power of God! (1 Cor. 2:4-5) He did this so that they would not trust in man's wisdom, but in the power of God.

There are many people today who do not believe that God always wants to heal, and some go as far as believing that God actually gives sickness to people to teach them a lesson. First of all, it is an insult to God to think that the Father of all goodness, wisdom, power, healing, humbleness, and more, would need to give His child a sickness to teach them a lesson! God is the source of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17), not every evil and wicked gift. Sin, sickness, death, famine, poverty, and more are

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not his will! He could never desire to give something completely contrary to His nature to someone He loves.

Think of healing in the context of the most supremely good love that always seeks the best of another unconditionally. Most parents would never want to give their kids a disease because they misbehave. How much more our Heavenly Father who always only seeks our best good unconditionally?! He loves us so much that He would never want us to suffer from any kind of physical ailment, ever! That's why there's no sickness, disease, pain, or suffering in heaven. Last time I checked Jesus knew God more than anyone who's yet walked the earth, and yet He was never sick once. If sickness was a source of growth in God, Jesus should've been the sickest of all. Instead not only was Jesus never sick, but He was such a manifestation of the healing attributes of God that everyone who came to Him for healing was healed! Now that's amazing!

Think about the angels too. I've never heard of God giving an angel a sickness to help them obey. Instead the angels obey because they are filled with God's love and glory! It is His love that enables us to obey Him, not evil. We are God's children and it is craziness to even consider that God would need to give us something evil to teach us good. That's like saying that God puts sin in our lives to teach us good things, and make us obey Him. What a lie! He is much bigger and better than that! It is the devil who wants people to be sick so that they might be hindered from serving God and fulfilling His full calling for their lives. That's why Acts 10:38 says Jesus came to heal all who were oppressed of the devil. John G Lake said, "Sickness is to the body, what sin is to the soul."

Another cool thing about the healing attributes of God is that they are also found in God's creation, and in our bodies. The fact that our bodies can heal and recover from injuries, illnesses, scrapes, and more is only because the healing attributes of God helped combine with other attributes to form the healing systems found in our body. Without God's healing attributes

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helping form these systems, like our immune system, our bodies wouldn't heal or defend against sickness like they do.

Healing attributes are also manifested in the creation. Ever hear about some "all natural" product that has "healing properties." That's because the healing attributes of God help produce healing qualities in that product! That's also why plants, animals, sea creatures, and more can heal is because of the measure of God's healing attributes that are manifested in them. Without the healing attributes of God, nothing in all of creation would have any ability to heal whatsoever. Even medicines can be made through using different things found in God's creation, and combining them to make a new compound that has healing properties. So whether it be miraculously, through the bodies own healing abilities, through the creation, or even medicine (though I don't believe all modern medicine is from the nature of God), God's healing is very much still a part of life today.

There are infinite ways that God's healing manifests. I'll share some of these. One way is by manifesting healing with authority and commanding the healing to come. We see Jesus and the apostles using commands for healing in numerous Scriptures. Another way is to declare, or speak forth, the healing word of God, such as: "God's healing your leg right now!" Jesus also did this many times in the Bible. When I say that there are infinite ways for God to manifest healing, I really mean it. Just look at the life of Jesus. He healed by touch, by command, by declaration, by laying on of hands, by telling them to go wash in a pool, telling them to show themselves to the priest, by putting mud on a blind guy, by someone grabbing His garment, by praying, and more. (For Scriptural references just read the gospels, as they are loaded with the miracles of Jesus) Many times Jesus said, or did, different things to heal someone depending on the circumstances. Even more than that it says in John that these are only a few of the miracles that Jesus did!

John 21:25:

'And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they

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were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.”

Now that’s a whole lot of stuff that we don’t have written down that Jesus did! I can read all four gospels in one day, but I haven’t even come close to reading enough books that the world could not contain them. Which tells me that Jesus healed in many other ways than what we have written in the gospels, plus He did many other things as well. That’s where you and I get to be creative and seek to know the attributes of God’s healing love to discover the many, many, many other ways that God can heal! Woohoo, sounds like fun! Even more than that is what Jesus said in:

John 14:12:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”

That means God wants to do the same works Jesus did when He walked the earth, and even greater, through every single believer! Looks like we got a lot of fun and adventure in the powerful love of God ahead of us for those who will believe!

Which brings me to a few more points before we go on. It is normal for every single believer to see God heal people through them. If you have Jesus in you, then you have the Healer in you. He wants to heal you, and heal others through you. There are many Scriptures that talk about Christians healing the sick (Like Matt. 10:8, Luke 9:2, Mark 16:17-18, James 5:13-16, John 14:12, and much more).

It boggles my mind when I hear other Christians criticizing believers who see God heal today. I’ve seen a number of widely known and respected children of God deny the works of healing through the lives of God’s people today. And some of them even go as far as attacking other believers who do genuinely walk in healing, and calling them false prophets, and calling the miracles works of satan. That is absolute craziness! I believe that this

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often happens because of lack of knowledge, jealousy, pride, insecurity, or other reasons. Someone sees God doing something great through another believer, and they get offended, or jealous, because maybe they haven't seen God do those things through them yet. Instead of humbly desiring to learn how to walk in healing themselves, they try to discredit what God is doing, and maybe even call it the devil to try to justify their wrong views.

That is also the very thing that the religious leaders did to Jesus when He was working miracles and casting out demons, and do you know what Jesus said to them? He warned them to be careful not to blaspheme the Holy Spirit by proclaiming that He was doing the works of God by satan (see Mark 3:22-30). It is not a wise thing to accuse another believer of working miracles through a demonic spirit. I understand that the Bible says that satan will come manifesting lying signs and wonders in the last days, but there are many more Scriptures that talk about believers healing the sick. There are also some really easy ways to tell the working of God's power, and the lying wonders of the devil.

Matt. 9:39:

"But Jesus said, 'Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name, can soon afterward speak evil of Me.'"

1 Cor. 12:3:

"Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."

These are two major and very clear ways to tell if the miracles are from God or not. If it's in Jesus name, and the person doing it is proclaiming Jesus as Lord. No one can do those two things unless they are being influenced by the Holy Spirit. They may not be perfect, in fact they could have some real sin issues in their life, but if perfection were a requirement for God to heal through someone, we'd all be in a bit of trouble.

On the other hand it says in many passages that false prophets, false Christs, and even satan will come performing lying

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signs and wonders. Now I don't believe it ever says anywhere in Scripture that satan will come to heal anyone. It says he will work lying miracles, signs, and wonders, including calling fire down from heaven, but it never says that he will heal anyone (Though it could be possible for the enemy to pervert a gift of healing from God in someone to use for selfish gain just like many psychics are using their prophetic abilities for evil instead of for God.). Miracles, signs, and wonders can mean many different things besides healing.

Secondly it also says that satan will do these things in order to get people to worship him, and proclaim that he is god (see 2 Thess. 2:1-12 and Rev. 13). He will exalt himself above all other gods, and blaspheme the true and living God. So it's quite obvious the antichrist spirit won't be manifesting miracles in Jesus name, giving glory to God, and proclaiming Christ as Lord. Some very obvious ways to tell if someone is sent from God, or not.

So whether you like everything about the person who God is working miracles through or not, we should never discredit the work of the Holy Spirit and call it the work of satan! And if you haven't seen God heal through yourself yet, humble yourself and start pursuing the healing nature of God until you do. I know a person named Chris Gore who prayed for about 1,000 people before he finally saw his first miracle. Now that's some perseverance! Now he's seen 1,000's of people healed by God. It's time we stop firing arrows at each other, and start being more unified in destroying the devil's works! Capiche?

My Own Journey in Healing

I would also like to share a little bit of my own personal journey in healing, as it has meant a great deal to me. When I was a new Christian about 10 years ago I never really saw healing miracles. I believed that it was possible for God to heal, but I almost never saw it happen, or heard people teaching how to do it. I really longed to see people get healed by God, and even felt the Lord encouraging me that I would, but I didn't know how

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this would happen. When I finally got around people who were not only teaching, but also demonstrating healing, it was quite amazing for me! Seeing how easy and simple it was for God to heal through them helped me realize how easy it is for God to heal through me. That's when I first started seeing miracles take place on a regular basis. I remember when I was first learning to pray for healing and seeing God actually heal people (unlike before when I would pray and almost never saw any noticeable change). It was a very exciting and exhilarating time for me, as I had often dreamed of seeing God heal through me, and this dream was finally becoming reality.

When I first started seeing God heal people I also noticed that I had some wrong perceptions about how healing works. Before I knew that all of God's attributes are found in His love, I didn't always feel love for people while praying for them. I would often feel like I needed to switch from focusing on loving people, to focusing on faith, the power of God, or my gift of healing, so that God would be able to heal the person I was praying for. I remember knowing that I loved the person, and was really wanting to see God heal them out of love for them. But when it came time to pray, due to my lack of knowledge, I would often feel like I needed to turn off the love attribute so I could focus on the power of God to heal.

Since receiving the revelation that all of God's attributes are found in His love, things really changed in great ways! Now I know that it's actually the more of God's love I have flowing through me the more healing, power, and faith that will be released with it to help others. Wow! So love is the key! In fact since love is the height, width, length, and depth of all that God is, we should never be walking in a greater measure of God's healing, power, faith, or any other attribute, than the measure of love we are currently walking in! That's good news!

I began to realize during this process that it is actually by experiencing the immense love God has towards people, and His intense desire for them to be free from all sickness, that gives us the faith to expect God to heal them. And the greater the

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revelations we have of His love for people, the more faith that we will have for things like healing to take place! This is the same for every kind of manifestation of God possible, not just healing. The more we know God's love, the more we will see His love manifested through various attributes and expressions. And as a general principle: the less we know God's love, the less we will see God do much of anything. So if you're not seeing breakthrough in certain areas, don't blame God, just ask for greater revelations of His love towards you!

Another revelation that really helped me see more miracles came from asking God how He heals people. When I was first beginning to see miracles take place sometimes I would over-analyze what happened. For instance, if someone's broken bone got healed I might start thinking about how the bones, muscles, and tissues would need to come back together...and so on. This kind of thinking can actually lead to unbelief, because I was trying to understand miracles from a natural perspective. The Lord answered my question about how He heals people by saying something like, "Since My Son paid for your whole body to be healed in heaven, I simply manifest the part of your new body that you need now." Wow! God doesn't just fix the old, He makes it new! That was much easier for me to understand than the other way. Later on I heard people who God had taken to heaven testifying of a body parts room where God has new body parts for people who need them. How cool is that?!

Now I know we've gone over a bit of teaching on God's healing, but I didn't want to end it without a testimony. One of my favorite testimonies of healing happened near the end of February 2009. My friend Paul and I were ministering at a church in Southern CA that is led by a friend of ours named Rick. During that Sunday we saw around 50 miracles! Hearing loss, fibromyalgia, cancer, pain in the body, a hernia, asthma, bone spurs, partial blindness, scoliosis, and much more were healed that day. And some of those took place through people that had never seen God heal through them before!

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My friend Paul prayed for a girl that had a leg that was shorter than the other, a calf that was smaller than the other calf, and a foot that was also smaller. God grew out her leg, grew her foot, and either shrunk or grew one of her calves to where all 3 parts of her body were now the same size! Wow! (Talk about God even caring for the little things!)

Rick's wife Melissa prayed with a mom for her son, who had Leukemia. Turns out the boy wasn't even at the service that morning, but God healed him anyway! When they took him to the doctor's to get him checked, the doctors said that his condition suddenly went into "remission," and was no longer there. Or from God's perspective, that boy got healed!

During the middle of this holy outbreak of healing a young 12 year old girl named Celeste was brought to me by her mom. She was born with a severe heart condition that had caused many problems from birth. She was on medication for it, and had to see a doctor every 3 months. She also had one kidney, scoliosis, and was partially blind (she had no peripheral vision, which means she could not see out of the sides of her eyes). I remember that my heart felt so much compassion to see this adorable little girl in such a state.

So we sat down and prayed. Instantly her vision was restored! Her mom was in shock as her daughter could now read the number of fingers we held up, and even grab our hands as we held them towards the sides of her eyes (where she could not see before). Her mom lifted up her shirt to check her back, and we both could see that one side was obviously bulging out above the other. So I said, "Let's pray again." This time I put my hand on her back and as we prayed I literally felt her back move underneath my hand! I said, "You're back just moved! Did you feel that?" She turned towards me and with this precious smile said, "Yeeesss." We checked her back again, and both sides were now flat and looked normal. Later she went to the doctor who said that she now has a perfect heartbeat, didn't need medication anymore, and wouldn't need to see him for another year! The Lord gave her a brand new heart! Her mom and I both believe that she also has

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a new kidney, though at the time she hadn't gotten that tested. Praise Jesus!!! Thank You Lord that You still heal today!

Difference Between Gifts of the Spirit and Attributes

I'm sure many may be wondering if there is a difference between the attributes of God's nature, and the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Cor. 12. The answer I believe is: Yes, there is a very big difference between the eternal attributes of God, and the temporary gifts of the Spirit. Both are from God and both are amazing, but the infinite capabilities of the attributes are far greater than those of the gifts of the Spirit. Due to the focus of this book being on discovering the nature of God I decided not to take time to explain much more about this subject. That will have to be for another time. So if you want to know more about this, I would encourage you to seek the Lord and ask Him what the differences are, and what the similarities are, as I believe there are both. Both are from God, and both are good, but one is much greater than the other.

God is Humorousness

Yes, it's true, God is the source of all good humor! Hahaha. He is not only the funniest being, the best joke maker, and the biggest laugher, but He is also the source of all the good jokes that have ever been made. Love is Humorous! Since God's attributes are the source of everything good and pure in existence today, that means He is the source of all good and holy humor. Unfortunately though, because of wrong thinking and other reasons, this aspect of God's nature has been greatly overlooked.

Eccl. 3:4:

"A time to weep And a time to laugh; A time to mourn And a time to dance."

Luke 6:21:

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“Blessed are you who hunger now for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who mourn now, for you shall laugh.”

Psalms 2:4:

“He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.”

Prov. 17:22 AMP:

“A happy heart is good medicine and a cheerful mind works healing, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.”

Our Father is the biggest jokester around! There are actually a number of Scriptures in the Bible that use the words laugh, laughs, or laughter in reference to God or His people. In fact the passage above in Psalms says that God laughs at the schemes of His enemies! God is so powerful that the greatest schemes the enemy is trying to come up with against you God is laughing at, because He's so much bigger than anything the devil could possibly do to harm His children! I've also heard that the average child laughs about 300 times a day, whereas the average adult laughs about 20 times a day. Remember it's children that often bear the image and attributes of our Father in a more pure expression.

God's attribute of humorousness helps produce humorous thoughts, desires for humorous things, humorous motives, humorous words, and manifests in many different ways, to bring forth many different humorous works. Every time someone has a good and funny thought, or says something funny, God's attribute of Humor is involved. Which means that every time someone tells a good joke, laughs, or makes a funny expression, God is actually doing it with them whether they acknowledge Him as the source of it or not! Haha. That's awesome! For all things are from Him, through Him, in Him, and all the glory for it is supposed to go to Him! For in Him we live and move and have our being! (Acts 17:28)

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Now I'm not saying, once again, that all laughter or jokes are from God. I think anyone who's been alive long enough knows that there is evil humor and laughter as well, which is not from God. But compared to the pure humor from heaven, the humor of this world is foolishness! God longs for the days when we really grab a hold of these kinds of truths, and begin to discover the overwhelming humor of our Father. He longs to make us laugh, and loves it when we enjoy Him in these ways. Why do you think one of the number one characteristics women look for in a man is humor? Deep down we all have a yearning for someone to make us laugh, because we were created for the loving humor and laughter of God! It's time that we as believers stop letting the world run the "humor" show with all the filthy, dirty, sarcastic, and degrading humor that is popular in the world today. We should be the funniest people on the planet, because we were created in the likeness of God!

The more I continue to know the Lord the more I am regularly on the floor laughing because of the funny things that He does and says. He is so non-religious, it's hilarious! The only way we will get to know Him in these ways though is if we humble ourselves and open our hearts to Him like little children. God hides Himself from the proud and arrogant, but reveals Himself to the humble and hungry.

I remember one time I was sitting at a desk going over Scriptures. All of a sudden I saw this very clear vision of Jesus doing a butt-spin on the desk in front of me (It was a pretty big desk). Haha. He was gliding on His butt in this almost effortless, smooth spin, and had a look of utmost glee on His face. I couldn't help but start laughing. "I thought Jesus how am I supposed to read the Bible when you're doing stuff like that?" That was actually the point. He wanted to remind me of His love for me by making me laugh. And I have had many, many experiences like this.

Here's another testimony from a friend of mine named Chuck Parry:

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I saw a young woman sitting in a chair and two young men were kneeling in front of her holding her legs straight out and saying something with rather intense emphasis. I asked what they were doing and she said they were trying to grow her leg out. I asked how it was going, and she said, "Not so well," and they showed me that one leg was about an inch shorter than the other.

"Here, put your finger on your nose," I told her. She looked at me and chuckled, but did it. The two guys were still praying for her leg. "Now push!" I said to her. As she pushed in on her nose with her index finger, her short leg shot out until it was as long as the other. We all looked at it with startled joy and laughed as we shook our heads in wonder. "Papa just likes to have fun with us," I told them. "He doesn't want us to take ourselves too seriously."

Wow! God can even heal people in humorous ways through the awesomeness of His love! Praise God!

I want you to know that there was a time in my Christian walk where I was really serious, and hardly ever laughed. Religion, lack of knowledge, and lack of intimacy, left me with very little intimate experiences with the person of God. But now the more I get to know Him personally and intimately, the more I am amazed by how funny He really is! Not only that, but He is also helping me become more humorous in Him. Praise God! The more we know Him in His humorousness, the more we will become like Him in humor too.

So take a little time now to reflect on these things. What attributes of God do you see in yourself, and in the people around you? What attributes of God can you see in His creation? Which attributes do you think you would really like to grow more in? Have you been activated in seeing God heal through you yet? Also, have you ever heard God tell a funny joke, or do something funny? Have you yourself ever told a good joke? I encourage you to spend time with God pursuing Him in these ways, and to check out more resources that can help you with some of these things, as God wants you to experience Him in much greater ways! Ask

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Him to reveal Himself to you in greater ways, and thank God for His holy, humorous, healing, creative love!!

Further Reading:

The Essential Guide to Healing By Bill Johnson and Randy Clark

When Heaven Invades Earth By Bill Johnson

Compelled by Love by Heidi Baker

I also highly recommend watching healing/miracle videos on YouTube, as there are loads of them. Look for ones that teach/demonstrate how easy it is for God to heal. I have known a good number of people who have said that watching videos on YouTube actually helped them get activated in healing, and starting to see God heal more through them!

Chapter 4

His Attributes are Alive

I'm sure by now you've noticed that the attributes of God aren't just characteristics of God's nature. The attributes of God are so much more than that. The attributes of God are actually alive! That's why every attribute helps produce the thoughts, desires, motives, intentions, ways, words, and works of God. They all work together to bring forth the different manifestations of God's love. Each attribute of God individually helps produce the heart, the mind, and the will of God. All the thoughts, desires, motives, words, ways, and works of all the attributes of God combine to form the complete heart, mind, and will of God collectively. Each one displays different pieces and aspects of the infiniteness of our Father's eternal love.

Heb. 4:12:

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

John 1:1:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Here we can see that it says that the word of God is alive and powerful. It is also a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Now the Word of God is Jesus, who is God. So every

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revelation, or word of God, is alive and active, and can discern the thoughts of the heart. And if every word of God is alive, then every thought of God is alive! (Words are spoken thoughts) And if all the words of God, and all the thoughts of God are alive, then certainly all the attributes of God that help produce them are alive!

Prov. 1:20,23 NIV:

“Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares... (23) If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.”

We see here that wisdom is personified, is raising her voice, and is declaring that she will reveal her heart and thoughts to those who respond to her. Now this is a great example of an attribute of God, which is Wisdom, showing that it actually has the ability to help produce words, thoughts, and reveal the heart of God! There are many other verses in Proverbs where wisdom is personified in different ways. Here are some more:

Prov. 8:12:

“I wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion.”

Prov. 8:23:

“I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth.”

Prov. 14:8 NIV:

“The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.”

Wisdom was with God in the beginning, because God is the source of all wisdom, and everything He created was created with wisdom. The attributes help produce the thoughts of God in different areas. For instance, the attribute of wisdom helps fill you with the revelations of God’s wisdom, produces desires in your heart to know wisdom, and helps you to live according

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to the revelations of wisdom that you've received. Wisdom also combines with the other attributes of love to do many other things, like helping God create things, and so much more.

These same things are true with every other attribute of God. Each attribute helps produce the revelations, or thoughts, of the nature of God's love that it represents. Like the attribute of healing that we went over earlier. Someone who is carrying the attribute of healing will receive thoughts from God's heart that are of a healing nature, have desires to see people get healed, and even be filled with thoughts of faith to see people be healed. The attributes of God combine even on the thought level. Like faith, knowledge, wisdom, and healing combining to help give you revelations of God that bring forth faith to see someone healed (remember that no attribute of God ever manifests alone and all are present in love). The attributes of God all work together to help produce the various combinations of thoughts, desires, ways, and works of the entire person of God! Which means understanding ALL the attributes of God is very important to discovering all the different combinations and manifestations that are possible in God.

Remember earlier the example with Jesus wanting to heal the multitudes. He saw their condition and immediately felt compassion, which means He was obviously thinking compassionately. Which then spurred a response of authority, power, and healing that healed them all. Jesus' mind didn't just go blank while He was doing this. The love of God in Him was releasing thoughts of compassion, authority, power, healing, knowledge, wisdom, and more, which then caused the works of the Father to come forth through Jesus.

Put yourself in Jesus' shoes. I know that when I see someone in pain, and I know that God wants to heal that person, guess what happens? Often times an overwhelming desire of compassionate love will rise up in me, along with thoughts of faith, power, authority, healing, etc. (based on the knowledge and understanding of God) Which then motivate me to pray for the person with the intention of seeing them healed, because I value

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their well being! That's thoughts, desires, motives, intentions, values, words, and works all coming forth at about the same time. Now I want you to know that this is very important to understand, and goes much deeper than what we will cover here. Though we will definitely at least go a little deeper throughout this book. Thank You Jesus!

God is Knowledge, Wisdom, and Understanding

I want to explain to you some of the difference between knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. All three are attributes of God. All three work together, but each one has different functions. Revelations, or thoughts, from God help reveal the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of God. Knowledge is a reality, or truth, of God. Wisdom is what helps apply that truth in right ways, and connects that truth with other similar truths. As multiple truths combine together this establishes the understanding of something, giving us a firm foundation to stand on so we have continual experiences with those truths.

Prov. 24:3:

“Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established; (4) By knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches.”

Knowledge is the pieces of the house. Wisdom is what puts them together in the right places. Understanding is what happens as multiple pieces are properly placed together in an established way (It can also apply to just 1 piece that is properly secured in the right place). I also like to see it like a puzzle. With every revelation of God's knowledge we get new pieces of that puzzle. Wisdom helps place them in the right spot. Understanding is what happens when the pieces are firmly placed in the right spot, and as multiple pieces connect together. The more pieces we have connected, the easier it is to build the puzzle. That's why Proverbs 14:6b says, “but knowledge is easy to him who understands.” The more puzzle pieces we have in their proper

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places, the easier it is to connect new ones to the puzzle. All three are necessary to understand the nature of God, and all three are directly connected to each other.

Wisdom

As we have already seen God's wisdom is quite extraordinary. As we went over earlier, all the treasures of God's knowledge and wisdom are found in love (1. Cor. 8:1, Col. 2:1-3). God's love is the source of all pure and holy wisdom. For His love is very wise.

Prov.3:13-15:

"Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; (14) For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. (15) She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her."

Wisdom is so extremely invaluable! Wisdom is more valuable than all the money in the world (so are all the other attributes of God as well). Wisdom is seen in everything around us, because God created all things with the wisdom of His love. The rivers, earth, grass, animals, plants, birds, fish, mountains, and everything else that's good, was created with God's wisdom. Also everything good that man has built, was built through wisdom. Every good building, house, plumbing system, electrical system, the internet, electronic device, technological device, clothing line, furniture design, and so much more; was made through the wisdom of God manifesting through people, even if God was never given any credit for it. For all things are of Him, through Him, and to Him, right? Just because man does something good, and then takes the credit for it, doesn't mean that God wasn't involved. So let's make sure we give God the glory He deserves when God gives us wisdom to do great things!

Even if someone does something good for a wrong reason, the idea (thought, or revelation) of that good work was originally found in God. Many people have mistakenly thought that we can

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only see God's attributes manifested in the desert, wilderness, oceans, or nature in general. Though there can definitely be a purer manifestation of God's attributes in these places, these are not the only places we can see God's attributes manifesting. The reality is that I can look at buildings, computers, kitchen utensils, and pretty much anything that has a good purpose, and receive revelation of God's wisdom and attributes! Many of these things were made of materials that are found in God's creation, and were then assembled together with the wisdom of God to form something else. We were created in God's image, so any good idea for something that can help people comes from the nature of God. That doesn't mean that man can't take God's good idea, and mix it with his own ideas, to make something that can actually cause harm. What it does mean though, is that pretty much everywhere we go we can find displays of the glory and attributes of God. Pretty exciting right? The attributes of God are involved in so much of our daily lives, and yet many are hardly even aware of it!

Now there are many things in the world today that I believe were not made from God's wisdom. Things like the atomic bomb, mustard gas, manufactured poisons, drugs, and many other things were not made from God's wisdom, but from corrupted wisdom. There is good wisdom from God, and there is corrupted wisdom. Corrupted wisdom is what happens when the nature of sin corrupts, twists, or perverts the revelations of God's wisdom (you can also call it false wisdom). That's what the devil has is corrupted wisdom:

Eze. 28:17:

"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you."

This passage is talking about the devil. The devil was a wise angel, but he allowed the sin nature to corrupt his wisdom. The devil often tries to take the wisdom of God, and then pervert it to manifest things that are of an evil nature. That's why so many

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things we see in the world today are not good, and can actually harm people.

James 3:17:

“But the wisdom that comes down from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

God’s wisdom is pure and uncorrupted. That is a big part of the reason why God hides Himself from the “wise” of the world, and reveals Himself to the childlike in heart (Matt. 11:25). God doesn’t want His wisdom to be corrupted by sinful man, but He loves to reveal Himself to His children. Many of the most pure forms of God’s attributes in the creation are actually in heaven. Heaven is a much, much greater demonstration of what the attributes of God look like when they are manifesting in His creation, with no sin. Even the “purest” places on earth ail in comparison to the glorious manifestations of God in heaven! And we’re supposed to help partner with God to see the earth become like heaven! Part of my intentions here though, are more to help people realize that even though it may not be full of glory, many of the things around us have much more to do with God than many people realize. Anything we do or make that requires good wisdom requires the attributes of God’s nature to accomplish it. His love wants to make things better for us, so any idea or invention that can help improve the quality of people’s lives comes from God! And anything good we see in the creation can reveal His attributes and nature to us.

Now I want you to take some time and look at some of the things around you. Did it take wisdom to make those things? Are they of a good nature? Do they help you in some way? Then give God glory, honor, and worship for sharing His wisdom with us so that we could have so many great things! For all good things are in Him, of Him, through Him, and to Him! I encourage you to think more about all the things in your life, in heaven, and in the earth. See if you can find God’s wisdom there, or if you see corrupted wisdom.

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Understanding

All of God's understanding is found in His love.

Mark 12:33:

“And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Col. 2:2 NIV:

“My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,”

His love understands all things from a heart of love that seeks the highest good for all people, and for the creation. Understanding is absolutely necessary if we are going to be able to live in the experiential knowledge of God continually. Understanding helps hold the foundation, walls, and ceiling of our spiritual “house” together. This is why it’s so important to have truthful understanding from God, instead of the false understanding of sin. Only the truths of God can carry the attributes and life of God. No other foundation can hold the glory of the Lord the way it was intended. 1 Cor. 3:11 “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Everything else is sand or straw compared to the solid rock of Christ’s understanding. Understanding from God helps give us a firm place to stand and experience the truths of God. For example:

Let’s say that I hear a testimony from someone about how they rebuked a storm in Jesus’ name. When they did the storm instantly started dissipating, and the skies cleared up. By hearing that testimony I am receiving some revelation of what God can do, (change the weather) and how it was done (rebuking it in Jesus name). If I had enough faith with that little bit of revelation I could then go out and possibly rebuke a storm in Jesus name

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myself. If I wasn't too sure about it though, I might need a bit more knowledge and understanding to help me get there. Let's say that the person sharing the testimony first talked about how Jesus rebuked the storm when their boat was in danger of sinking (Matt. 8:23-27). He then shares that the reason why he rebuked the storm was because there was an outdoor event scheduled that day to share the gospel with people, and he felt that God wanted Him to rebuke the storm so that the event could take place. He also explained some points on how Christ has given man dominion over the creation, and gave some more Scriptures like this one:

Psalms 8:6:

"You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet."

Then I would have a little more understanding to work with, which will help me have a more solid foundation for my faith to rest on and manifest the will of God. That's why it says in Rom. 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The more of the knowledge of God we have, rightly applied through wisdom, to build understanding; the more faith we will have to experience the reality of those truths. So the more knowledge, wisdom, and understanding we have of each attribute of God, the easier it will be for us to see God manifest the expressions of those attributes in different ways! Glory to God!

How to Grow In Attributes of Love

This brings me to a point that I'm sure many have been wondering. How else do I grow in the attributes of God? I know we've gone over some ways, but there are many, many more. One of the ways is one that we pretty much already did: By beholding God's attributes.

2 Cor. 3:18:

"But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of

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the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

When we worship God we become like Him! The more we behold the different attributes of God, meditate on them, and receive revelation from them, the more we will simultaneously grow in the same attributes. Since every thought of God is alive, it carries with it the attributes of God! (and vice versa) The attributes of God also produce His thoughts, which then increases the level of the manifestation of His attributes. So the more thoughts we think from the different attributes of God, the greater the measure of His attributes we will have abiding in our soul. By simply worshipping and meditating on God's attributes of love, we automatically begin to take on the very attributes of God that we are beholding! Which makes meditating on God's attributes an invaluable and easy way to grow in the Lord!

For example: The more revelation of God's Encouraging that we receive, in the context of His love, the easier it will be for us to receive His encouragement. Not only that, but we will also grow in the amount of God's encouraging that is abiding in us to show towards others. We will begin to think more encouragingly, desire to be more encouraging towards others, and live according to these things. We can only give what we have first received from God. The more we receive revelations of His love towards us, the more we will be able to love Him and love others in the same ways.

Ask, Seek, Knock

Another way to grow in the attributes of God is simply to ask.

James 1:5 NIV:

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

Luke 11:9-10:

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will

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find; knock and it will be opened to you. (10) For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

I love James 1:5! That verse has been such a key to me to receiving revelation, wisdom, and more from God. Notice how it says that any of us can ask God for wisdom, and God will give it to us generously, regardless of how much sin or righteousness is in our life? That's so awesome! What an unconditionally loving Father, to give His children wisdom without basing it on their own righteousness. And you know why God does that? Because in order for us to grow in His love, He has to reveal knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of His attributes. So the only way we could ever actually get to know Him, and live righteously, is if He helps us do it. Of course it would make sense that the Father of all love would give us His wisdom generously without us having to do a thing to deserve it. In fact God knows that the more wisdom He gives you, the more likely you are to actually follow Him and do what is right! Since all of wisdom is found in love, then God's wisdom will only lead us into greater levels of His love!

In fact, I believe this is one of many important keys that helped me to start receiving more revelation from God, and eventually lead to the revelations of the nature of His love. Before I started asking God for wisdom on a regular basis, I wasn't getting much revelation from Him. Then one day the Lord highlighted James 1:5-6 to me. So by faith I started asking Him for wisdom, knowing that I wasn't doing anything to earn or deserve it. I started praying Paul's prayer in Eph. 1:15-19, and I would also add Eph. 3:18-19 in there often (which is the Scripture about knowing the width, length, depth, and height of God's love).

Within about a couple weeks of doing this, one day God started pouring out wisdom on me like never before! He started revealing mysteries of His glory to me in such great and marvelous ways, that I was overwhelmed! And this has continued since then with regular, and even daily downpours of revelation, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding into the mysteries of

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God! It didn't come cause I was fasting for 100 days straight, had memorized the whole Bible, or because I'm some kind of super Christian. It came because I simply asked the all-loving God, who also happens to be my Father, for wisdom. I even remember thanking God the day that it started, saying, "I thank You Lord that it's easier for me to get breakthrough than I think."

Now these same principles apply to asking God to manifest His attributes. Alls we have to do is ask and we will receive; seek and we will find; knock and the attributes of God will open up in our lives! Every time you receive a revelation from God whether it comes directly, through another person, from a book you read, the Bible, etc; you are receiving manifestations of the life and attributes of God's love! Even as your reading these very words you just got more of God's life in you-hahaha, got ya!

Another way the attributes manifest is through acting upon the revelations we receive of the attributes. For instance: Let's say that God shows me that in His mercy He forgets all my wrongs. Then He tells me that He wants me to forgive others the same way He has forgiven me (Col. 3:13 says to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us). Which means that when I forgive someone's wrongs, I'm also supposed to make a conscious effort to forget that they ever did anything wrong against me. Many people say that they forgive someone, but they don't forget. This is not God's standard of forgiveness. He forgives and forgets! By me acting upon that revelation it will increase the manifestation of the attribute of mercy in my life. So the next time someone sins against me, and I choose to forgive and forget, I just grew in the attribute of God's mercy! Acting upon the revelations we receive releases a greater increase of the attributes of His love in and through our lives. So the next time someone sins against me it will be even easier for me to show God's merciful love towards them, because there is a greater manifestation of His mercy abiding in me.

James 2:22:

"You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and

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his faith was made complete by what he did.”

Impartation

Impartation is another way to receive a greater manifestation of attributes. Impartation is when you share the manifested life, or graces, of God that you've received with other people. Since attributes are graces of God, we can and do impart these into others in many ways. One is through the laying on of hands (Rom. 1:12). Another is through our words. Every word from God is also a thought from God, which carries the attributes of God, which then are imparted into the hearts of those who receive what God is speaking.

Eph. 5:29:

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

Remember that it's His love that edifies us, or builds us up into His image (1 Cor. 8:1). So every word that comes from His nature of love has the power to impart His life into our being, causing us to be more like Him. In fact every time you speak you are releasing an impartation of whatever attributes you are speaking from.

That's why sharing testimonies of things God has done can be so empowering to see them happen again in other people's lives. Like sharing a testimony about rebuking a storm, and then someone else sees God rebuke a storm after hearing that testimony. Or sharing a testimony of God healing someone, and then a bunch of people get healed after hearing the testimony. The testimony is releasing the very attributes of God that caused that event to occur. This is also why we need to be very careful about what we speak. As the life of God is released in every word we speak from Him, so also an impartation of sin is released in every word that is of the sin nature. Prov. 18:21 “Death and life is in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat it's fruit.”

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The ways I also mentioned previously about looking at the creation, thinking about what it's like to be in love, and watching the things people do, can all help manifest more of the attributes of God in our lives. Like I said before though, there are many, many more ways to receive the attributes of God than these.

So go ahead and take some time again to activate yourself in some of these ways. Meditate on some of God's attributes of love. Ask God to reveal Himself to you in greater ways, and to manifest specific attributes that you'd like to grow in. Think about His creation, or people, and what kind of attributes you see in them. If God shows you something to do, then act upon it! And if you don't get answers for everything right away, keep asking, seeking, knocking until you do. This is an eternal process, but the more we grow in it now, the more full of God's love we'll be! I encourage you to ask God regularly/daily for wisdom, and even consider praying some of Paul's prayers over yourself regularly (like Eph. 1:15-20, 3:15-18, Phil. 1:9-11, etc). I also want you to take some time to think about the attributes of joy, peace, justice, grace and holiness. We will be going over some of the revelations of these attributes later, and I think it would be great for you to have an opportunity to see what God tells you about them before we do!

Infiniteness

Psalm 147:5:

"Great is our Lord, and mighty in power, His understanding is infinite."

Believe it or not there is actually an attribute of God called Infiniteness. Because the source of everything that exists in all creation and all eternity is found in God, in order for anything to go on for infinity it requires the nature of God to do so. Love is infinite! The attribute of God's love that is infiniteness, actually has the ability to make things infinite in measure!! Understanding this attribute has actually helped me to understand more the

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all-capableness of God's nature. See God measures things in infinities and eternities, like we might measure minutes or days.

2 Pet. 3:8:

"But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

What this Scripture is really saying is that each day is like an eternity to God, and an eternity is like a day to Him. God is outside of time and space, and can do ANYTHING! He is not bound by any limitations or restrictions, except that He can never sin. This attribute is so amazing because it helps explain how God can have infinite thoughts, desires, motives, create infinite things, and ssooooo much more!

Think about the example that I gave you earlier with God's attribute of knowledge (you may want to go over this one a few times and think about it more in detail to see the big picture). God sees every possibility for every decision you make throughout the day (and I mean EVERY possibility). He also sees every possible impact that it could have on every person's life, through every generation, on into eternity (Remember the person that got saved model from before). He also knows all the possible responses He could give to every one of your possible decisions, as well as all the possible responses of the people being impacted, and His possible responses to their possible responses from being impacted! (whew, say that five times fast!) And much more! That alone is infinite in measure! And you're just one person, there's 7 billion people on earth, and who knows how many more in heaven already, plus angels, animals, bugs, heavenly beings, planets, and so much more!!! God is very, very active! Wow! Hahaha.

Part of the reason for this is that the attribute of Infiniteness actually helps enable God to make/do anything that He wants, in infinite ways/measures. Remember how in Eph. 3:18-19 it talks about the height, width, length, and depth of God's love? Some people think of eternity as going in a single line, on and on forever. And that can be true if we are looking at a single length

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of eternity. But here it says in Eph. 3:18-19 that God's love fills ALL directions, meaning that for God His idea of infinity and eternity goes every direction and way possible!!! Wow!! He's so AMAZING! There are infinite infinities, and infinite eternities worth of experiential knowledge in God, because the attributes of God's love cause infinities to go in every single direction and way possible! Now this is incomprehensible to the natural mind, so don't try to figure it all out at once. Just smile and go "Wow that's amazing!" haha.

Rev. 1:18 AMP:

"And the Ever-living One [I am living in the eternity of the eternities]. I died, but see, I am alive forevermore; and I possess the keys of death and Hades (the realm of the dead)."

Remember everything God does, comes out of a way that God manifests, and out of an attribute that He is. Also remember that everything thing exists inside of the person and glory of God. In order for an eternity or infinity to even exist, it would have to first be manifested out of the nature of God. God doesn't just live in eternity, but every eternity lives in Him!! He is the Beginning and the End of all things! (Rev. 1:8) That's also how God is able to make us eternal (live forever) and infinite in measure, (endless in thoughts/works as we learn from Him, and work with Him) because He shares His infinite and eternal love with us! How awesome is that?! God can do anything! (By the way there is also an attribute of God that I like to refer to as Eternalness, which is how God can make anything that He wants eternal/live forever)

For example let's look at the ordinary old snow flake. Snow has been around since at least Noah's day, and since there is always winter, there is probably snow falling somewhere most days of the year. One cubic foot of snow is estimated to have about 1 billion snowflakes in it. That's just one cubic foot! Think about how many feet of snow falls every year from the North Pole, in the different continents, and Antarctica. How many snowflakes is that? A whole lot more than I'd like to count right now. Haha. And scientists say that there are no 2 snowflakes that are exactly

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alike!! Wow! Why? Because God has the ability to make anything infinite! So He loves to do things like make snowflakes unique, make every planet different, make every person unique, and on and on and on. He is the infinite creator of all and has infinite combinations, designs, expressions, thoughts, and so much more, to manifest the awesomeness of His glorious love!!

Let's take another example, since I know this is a big one. How about a day at the beach. Let's imagine that God wants to show you His infinite capabilities by taking you to the beach every "day", and each day He plans to do something new with you. Every day He could cause so many different combinations of weather, colors in the sand and water, animals, people, heavenly beings, events, activities, sports, clothes, foods, conversations, and so much more to take place; that He could manifest something different every single day, for an eternity, and never run out of new things to do. And that's just one "day" at the beach!

Just think about it for a little bit. How many other things in life could God make infinite, even if there's only a little bit of difference? What about furniture? Are there infinite designs, colors, styles, types of material, sizes, shapes, and more, that God could manifest? (Especially when you consider that God can manifest the expressions of His attributes to create so many things that aren't even in the earth, and that He can do anything! For all things are possible with God. Mark 10:27) If God can do something so great with a tiny microscopic snowflake, with a day at the beach, and with furniture, there is certainly so much more of Him we have yet to experience! Oh how great and awesome and glorious is our God!! Eternity is full of the vast array of infinite combinations and expressions of experiencing God's love! Lord we have so much more of You yet to experience!! Thank You Jesus!!

To help share a little bit on what can happen when the attribute of infiniteness manifests in a person's life, I want to share a little bit of a testimony from a man named Roland Buck. Roland Buck was a pastor in the 1970's that had some incredible angelic visitations from angels, including the angel Gabriel.

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Gabriel was sent to him to teach him about the importance of partnering with angels and more. He was then ordered by God to keep record of the messages he received from the visitations, and share them with the body of Christ. Later a book was made called “Angels on Assignment,” by Roland Buck, that recorded a great portion of these experiences. One night though, instead of an angelic visitation, Roland was actually taken into heaven! This may be a bit stretching for some, but praise God that He is far more capable of doing great things through us than we yet know!

Eph. 3:20:

*“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, **according to his power that is at work within us.**”*
(boldness added)

“One Saturday night in January of 1977, at about 10:30 PM, I was seated at my desk, meditating, praying, and preparing my heart for Sunday. I had my head down on my arm at the desk, when suddenly, without any warning, I was taken right out of that room!

I heard a voice say: “Come with me into the Throne Room where the secrets of the universe are kept!” I didn’t have time to answer; space means nothing to God! It was like a snap of the fingers - boom - and I was right there! Only then did I recognize that the voice I had heard speaking to me was the voice of the Almighty God!

I was nervous, and God told me to relax. He said, “You can’t prove anything to me, because I already know you.” I began to relax even though it was so awesome I had difficulty comprehending what was happening.

He came right to the point and said, “I want to give you (and this is HIS expression) an ‘overlay’ of truth.” In a split second of eternity, we went from Genesis to Revelation, looking first at God’s plan for his people. Throughout all of the Bible, God discussed his character, stating, “I will do nothing in conflict with my nature or my character. My plan for you is good and it will be accomplished.”

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He referred me to Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” In giving me these thoughts, God wanted me to see how he really felt about man; that he had man in mind before he made the earth; and he made the earth so man would have a place on which to live. When he looks at man, he does not look at the evil which has taken place, but he looks at the very heart of man.

During this visit, God truly gave me a glorious glimpse of the hidden secrets of the universe; of matter, energy, nature and space, all bearing the same beautiful trademark. As he gave me this dazzling overlay of truth, it added a new beauty and unity to the entire Bible which I previously did not have. Certain biblical truths which I had seen darkly were now perfectly clear, and I could see how all the pieces fit together in what God was doing!

Then God said I could ask questions! My mind was whirling! How does a human ask questions of God? It was so awesome being in his presence I could hardly think. Finally a thought came into my mind to find out whether or not he actually made individual plans for each and every life, because for some reason or other, I felt this gigantic task would be too big even for God!

In answer to my question, God let me see the vastness of his heavenly archives! My head swam! There was no way my finite mind could understand how God could keep track of these files. There must be billions of them! He said, “Since you are overwhelmed by this, and it staggers you, let me pull out one that you can relate to.” And he immediately pulled out mine! He would not let me see the contents of it, but mentioned a few of the future items listed which I could use as confirmation of this visit.

Then he did another very surprising thing! He wrote down 120 events which he said would happen in my life in the future. It wasn't like you and I write; the information just suddenly appeared! I did not even need to read it, but right now, I can tell you EVERYTHING that was on that paper, because it was instantly impressed on my mind like a printing press prints on

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paper. The press doesn't have to read what is imprinted. It's there! In the same way, every single notation was burned into my mind, and it's still there! Even though I had this knowledge, God also let me know that he did not want me to reveal any of these things until such times as he would release me to share them..." *³

Wow! Isn't that incredible! And this is just a small portion of the things that Roland experienced in that one encounter! You can read the whole testimony in the book "Angels on Assignment" by Roland Buck. Roland said that the amount of things he experienced in that encounter seemed like it took months of earthly time! Yet, when he came back down to earth his body was still in the same place, and hardly any time had passed (he said he looked at his clock and that only 5 minutes had passed). Also, all of the 120 events that God gave him about his life came to pass, and were witnessed to by others! (He died right after the last one took place) This is what can happen when the attributes of infiniteness propel us into divine eternal learning. Talk about "higher learning." haha.

This is also how Jesus was able to grow so quickly into His Sonship. He was experiencing things far beyond what a person is capable of in the realms of time and space, by living in the infiniteness of God! In fact there are multiple Scriptures in John that say Jesus knew all things even as a man (John 2:24, 16:30, 21:17). Which means He went from emptying His soul of knowledge (Phil. 2:5-9) when He became a man, to once again knowing all things even before He ascended to His Father! Only supernatural, outside of time, infinite growth could enable Jesus to grow like that. Even the Jews marveled when Jesus knew the Old Testament even though He never studied (John 7:15). That means that He learned the Scriptures supernaturally through His Father manifesting that knowledge in Him, similar to what He did to Roland Buck, but on a much, much greater level.

Another good example of this is the entire book of Revelation. The apostle John was taken to heaven and shown so many important things, and futuristic events. I believe that this one experience that John had probably took a great amount of

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time, as many of the chapters of the book of Revelation seem to be brief summaries of his experiences. He was also able to remember, or write down, the things that he heard and saw; thus giving us the book of Revelation. And he experienced all those things in one visitation from God!! Wow!! Lord let it happen to us!

I do realize that these things may stretch some people, but God can do anything, so this is small in comparison to what He could do. It's also very good for us to be stretched, so that we will have a greater space for God's glory to manifest as He destroys any boxes we may have tried to put Him in! I realize that some may think that it's unbiblical to say there are infinite infinities and eternities in God. The word "infinite" is hardly even mentioned in the Bible (some versions don't use the word at all), so there is so much of God's infiniteness that is not revealed in the Bible. This is where we need to depend on the Spirit giving us living revelation, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding to discover the attributes and nature of God!

I hope by now that you can see that it is God who defines what an eternity or infinity is, not man. What is one "day" to God, can be like an "eternity" to man. Just a small measure of the knowledge of God can be like an infinite or endless measure to man. Overall if you still want to look at God as having only one infinity, and one eternity, that's okay with me. I even look at it like this in some ways myself. But we must realize that according to God's mind this "one infinity," and/or "one eternity," has infinite infinities, and infinite eternities, worth of the experiential knowledge of God in it. For God is infinite and eternal in every direction and way possible, and fills all things! Which means that there is so much more of the experiential knowledge of God than what many have ever even dreamed of! How awesome is our God!!!

(By the way another good example of this is found in the fact that the universe is still expanding in every direction, which is a reflection of the nature of it's Creator going in every direction, who also holds the universe inside of His own being, and will

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soon “roll up” the entire universe “like a scroll.” Isa 34:4. Oh, and also that the kingdom of heaven and the universe are the “mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him.” Job 26:1-14 ☺)

I believe that in the years to come testimonies like Roland Buck’s will be so much more common. I believe that there will even be people who will have regular occurrences like this, as God wants His people to know Him in much greater measures than we’ve ever imagined! Halleluiah! Mark 9:23 “Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’”

Chapter 5

God is Alive and So Are We

God has a heart, a mind, and a will. All of which are directly connected, and function in perfect unity. It is the attributes of God that make up the heart, mind, and will of God. As I said before all of the desires (or emotions), thoughts, motives, intentions, words, ways, and works that come from God, originate from His attributes. Collectively all the attributes of God's love are what pretty much make up the entire person of God!!!!

Everything God is, thinks, and does, comes from the infinitely infinite, combinations and expressions of His attributes! That's why understanding His attributes is so absolutely vital for every single believer. This is also why having a lack of, or some wrong understandings of these things is so devastating to the body of Christ!!! It's time we start seeking God to know Him, His attributes, and His ways, so that we can understand the secrets to understanding all things!

You see every part of God's being is alive from head to toe (so to speak), and produces desires, thoughts, motives, ways, works, etc. Scientists have done a lot of damage to society by completely dis-acknowledging the Creator of all things, the spiritual forces and spiritual realms around us; and the souls and spirits of people. And yet we look to science to tell us how life is supposed to be?! Really? We've been duped and deceived in many, many ways by looking to man for knowledge instead of God. Now I'm not saying that all science is bad, but when you disregard the things I just shared, what knowledge of God are

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you left with? There is much more I'd like to share about this, but for now I'm wanting to plant a seed, to help you realize that much of the things we've been taught as being "the way things are", is a bunch of lies and foolishness to God!

Science tries to tell society today that people think with their brains, and that the brain is the source of every thought, emotion, and function of the body/person. Oh, and that there's no such thing as a soul or spirit. What foolishness! Last time I checked God doesn't even have a brain, so how do you explain that one? Hahaha. That's because every part of God's being is alive, and thinks from the attributes of God that are manifesting eternally, infinitely, and incredibly at all times. God is Spirit, and His Spirit makes everything alive. That's why it says even His words are alive and active. God is Spirit, but He also has a spirit, a soul, and a body.

2 Cor. 3:17:

"Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty."

John 19:30:

"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished.' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

Matt. 26:38:

"Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.'"

Phil. 3:21 NIV:

"who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

God is the Spirit, but each member of the Godhead (Father, Son and Spirit) also have their own spirit, soul, and body. So all 3 members are God as one, but each one also has their own spirit, soul, and body. God is fully God, expressed in the form

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of 3 unique persons. It is their spirit, soul, and body that gives them their individuality, even though all three are equally God, and they all flow in complete oneness together. All of God's attributes, thoughts, desires, and more are found in His person/Spirit. Together these things manifest through their spirit, soul, and body collectively as one. Every time the Holy Spirit thinks something, so does the Father and Jesus. Every time the Father says something, so do Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They are one in everything they are and do. That's why Jesus said that when we see Him we see the Father, and that the Lord is the Spirit (John 14:9, Heb. 1:3, 2 Cor. 3:17). Every part of God's being is full of His glory, love, attributes, thoughts, and is alive. So where do thoughts come from in us then?

Prov. 23:7:

"For as he thinks in his heart so is he."

James 2:26:

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead."

1 Cor. 2:11:

"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."

1 Cor. 2:16:

"But we have the mind of Christ."

See the picture? God thinks from His Spirit, and so do we. And actually our spirit, if you are born again, has the very mind of God (Christ). God shares His mind with us. As spiritual beings created in the image of our Father we think from the mind of God in our spirit, which then manifests into our soul, which then flows into our body, and imprints upon our brain. The heart is the connection point between the Holy Spirit and our spirit, our soul, and our body. The heart is also the collective sum of

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all the attributes, thoughts, desires, and so forth that abide in our entire being. That's why it says that the thoughts of our heart shape who we are. The body and brain actually have no capacity to think without our soul and spirit. Without our spirit our body is dead, but guess what, our spirit still thinks just fine without the body. That's why when people die and go to heaven they can actually usually think even more clearly, cause they are no longer in an earthly body that is in many cases still operating at a much smaller capacity than what God created it to. Our spirit and soul can think very well without our body.

The Spirit, Soul, and Body of Man

John 3:5-6:

“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’”

1 Cor. 6:17:

“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”

For those who don't know Christ they are spiritually dead. When someone accepts Jesus into their life, the Spirit of God resurrects their spirit, causing them to be “born again.” The spirit of the person is also made one spirit with the Lord. Meaning that the Holy Spirit is now fused, or joined, with our spirit as one spirit together. There is no more separation between our spirit and the Holy Spirit, they have been made one together through the cross of Jesus. When you take one metal bar and fuse (or join it) to another metal bar, what do you get? The two have collectively now become one metal bar. That is what God has done with us. He has made us one life with Himself, which is the highest form of intimacy with God we could have! God shares the attributes of His life, glory, and love with us! He manifests these things in our spirit, so we can live as one life with Him! His thoughts are

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our thoughts, and His ways our ways (unlike the Old Testament where His thoughts were not our thoughts, and His ways above our ways).

Col. 3:3:

“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

That’s why our spirit now has the mind of Christ, is because the Holy Spirit shares His mind with our spirit as one mind together. That’s incredible! We have the mind of God, pretty cool huh? We also have the heart of God in our spirit:

2 Chron. 7:16:

“For now I have chosen and sanctified this house that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.”

In this verse God was saying that His name, eyes, and heart would be in the temple of God forever. Well in the new covenant we are the house and temple of God, so His eyes and heart are in us forever! And of course we also have the will of God:

Phil. 2:13:

“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

That means the heart, mind, and will of our spirit, is one with the heart, mind and will of God (For now I won’t share how much of the heart, mind, and will of God is in our spirit, you’ll have to ask the Lord on that one). God manifests the attributes of His love in our spirit, which then form His heart, mind, and will in us. If you’re born again you also have a measure of the heart, mind, and will of God manifesting in your soul and body as well. The soul is the 2nd seat of our mind, will, and emotions. It is also commonly viewed as being what makes us unique. Our soul is also where we form agreements and make decisions. Our body is the temporary temple or tent of our spirit and soul. Our body is the physical form that our spirit and soul are originally born into, that can also be an expression of the DNA of our parents.

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We were created to live, think, desire, feel, speak, act, and more, from the union of our spirit and the Holy Spirit. Then these things flow in and through our soul, and then our body. This can happen simultaneously/all at once, so that many don't even realize that this process has taken place. Our spirit, soul, and body were all created to be in perfect harmony with each other. We were created to be perfectly one with the Spirit in our spirit, soul, and body. So that His life flows through us in everything we are and do. Many people have very little awareness of how these all function together, and I believe that is largely because of the lack of knowledge in the body of Christ, as well as the negative impact that science has had in not acknowledging spiritual realities. God originally created us to be spiritual beings, made in His image and likeness.

John 4:24:

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

We are spiritual beings that are one with God's Spirit, who have a soul, and dwell in a temporary body. He created Adam and Eve to live as spiritual beings, but something very unfortunate happened.

The Fall of Man

Adam and Eve were originally created in the image, glory, and love of God, and were completely sinless. Sin did not exist in the world, because God created it to be good. Then Adam and Eve did something that would cost many for generations to come. They broke the one commandment in the Bible that God gave them: Not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The moment they broke this command, sin sprang to life. This caused their spirits to die, and separated them from God's Spirit.

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Rom. 7:8-9 NIV:

“But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law sin is dead. (9) Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.”

Rom. 5:12 NIV:

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.”

We see here that it was actually the commandment of God that provided opportunity for sin to come to life. Remember how I said earlier that there are two natures in existence: The nature of God, and the sin nature. Sin did not exist in the beginning, and God did not create sin. Sin came into being through the breaking of His commandments. The devil was the first to break one of God's commandments (though I'm not sure that the Bible says which one). Then he enticed Adam and Eve to sin by breaking the commandment that God gave them as I mentioned before. This resulted in sin entering Adam and Eve, as well as the world. This also switched rulership over the earth from man, to the devil. God originally gave the authority and stewardship of the entire earth to man. So when man obeyed the devil, the devil stole the spot of authority over the earth, and became the ruler of the world (John 14:30). Thankfully, through the cross of Christ, Jesus destroyed the power and authority of the devil, and now shares His authority over the earth with His people (Col. 2:15, John 12:31). But we have to choose to walk in that authority and destroy the devil's works by the Spirit of God!

Contrary to popular belief, sin is not just an action, it is a nature that produces desires, thoughts, and has a will.

Eph. 2:3:

“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”

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Rom. 7:20:

“Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.”

We can see here that it says the sin nature produces desires, thoughts, cravings, and can act out it's will through man. Now that's not good! When Adam and Eve sinned they went from being spiritual beings that had a soul and a body; to being carnal, fleshly human beings that were slaves to the sin nature living in their bodies. The sin nature then produced evil desires and thoughts into their souls, and basically killed their spirit, separating them from the Spirit of God. They were spiritual beings that lived from their spirit (in union with the Spirit), through their soul, and in their body. They became sinful human beings whose bodies were enslaved by sin, which then enslaved their souls, and killed their spirits. This is the state that every person who is not born again is in, and that we once lived in before we became alive in Christ. As I said earlier though, because of the unmerited grace of God, even most unbelievers still have a measure of God's life and attributes in their soul, even though they have become slaves of sin. Even in the midst of sin, God still gives His undeserved grace to people.

Buried and Raised With Christ

Unfortunately there is currently a very devastating demonic doctrine that has spread through much of the body of Christ. This teaching tries to promote the belief that even though they are born again, and sons of the living God, that somehow they are also still sinners in bondage to the sinful nature. This false doctrine is probably one of the more damaging lies impacting the body of Christ today. I myself suffered greatly from believing this lie, while attempting to live the Christian life, and was constantly fighting against something that Christ already destroyed for me. Now that I've been set free from that lie, and more rightly understand what Jesus has done for us, my Christian walk is so much more victorious! God wants His children to walk in the

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nature He gave us, the nature of His love! No longer slaves of sin, but filled with righteousness!

Since I'm pretty familiar with the verses that are often quoted and misunderstood to build this doctrine on, this will take going over many verses, and a couple chapters. I want to be sure that you are absolutely certain of the truth, so that we may all walk in the true freedom that Christ has given to us. This will also help us to know how we were created to live and function as spiritual beings who are one spirit with God, and free from the sin nature. As well as help us understand how the attributes of God manifest in our being: Spirit to spirit, soul, and body.

Rom. 6:3-7:

*“Or do you not know that as many of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (4) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of his resurrection, (6) **knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (7) For he who has died has been freed from sin.**”* (boldness added)

Honestly this right here says it pretty clearly. Our sin nature (or old man) was crucified and buried with Christ about 2,000 years ago on the cross. Jesus didn't just pay for the forgiveness of our sins, He literally bore our sin nature on the cross and killed it, making us free from sin! Woohoo! Glory to God! He then raised our spirit up with Himself, and has given us a completely new life of righteousness in Him. Sin only has dominion over someone until they die. So Christ crucified us with Him, so that we might be resurrected into a new life completely free from sin and filled with His love! That's why it says the body of sin was done away with, which means gone forever! The NIV says that the sin nature was “rendered powerless” (Rom. 6:6 NIV). Or in other words, “It has no more right to affect you in any way.”

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Even though this took place about 2,000 years ago, this reality is manifested into our lives the moment we accept Jesus as Lord and savior.

2 Cor. 5:17:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

If you are in Christ, you are a completely new person! The old you is dead, gone, done away with, and the new person is alive and filled with the life of God! This makes everything about your life brand-spankin new! Haha. No more sin nature, sinful thoughts, and sinful ways. Instead we have been given the nature of God’s love as our new nature, which is filled with the heart, mind, and will of God.

2 Cor. 5:21:

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Heb. 10:16:

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them.”

Notice how it says in 2 Cor. 5:21 that we have now become the righteousness of God in Christ. That doesn’t just mean that we’ve been forgiven of our sins. Righteousness is an attribute of God’s love that helps produce thoughts, desires, motives, words, and works just like all of God’s attributes do (see Prov. 11:23, 12:5; Psalm 145:17; Neh. 9:8; Dan. 9:14). Righteousness means to think right thoughts, speak right words, have right desires, do righteous works, and more. The righteousness of God helps produce all of the righteous thoughts, desires, motives, words, works, and more, of His love.

So when it says that in Christ we have become the righteousness of God that means much more than just being forgiven. That means God is sharing His attributes of

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Righteousness with us, so we can think, desire, and live according to His Righteousness! That's why it says that God will put His laws into our hearts and minds. The Righteousness of His love helps produce thoughts (revelations), desires, motives, etc, into our hearts and minds, which then enable us to live righteously in Him! Righteousness is not just something that we do, it's something that we are in Christ. You are righteousness in Christ, and are to live by His righteous thoughts, desires, motives, and more! Wow! Thank You Jesus! So how powerful is God's righteousness?

Rom. 5:17:

“For if by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.”

Basically this says that if sin and death reigned in our lives through the disobedience of Adam, how much more will God's life, grace, and righteousness reign in our lives through the obedience of Christ! It's not a “We barely make it every day,” kind of righteousness. It's a “We reign over all things contrary to God's love!” Kind of righteousness!

Rom. 5:8:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Notice how it says, “while we were,” as in past tense. We were sinners that Christ died for, so that He could make us into righteous sons and daughters of God. Kris Vallotton says, “We are no longer sinners who sin, we are saints who make mistakes.” The epistles were written to the saints in Ephesus and God's holy people, not to sinners. Here's some Scriptures that I think some people must breeze right pass. I say this because if we truly believe that these Scriptures are true then we would have to believe that God really does share His righteousness with us.

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1 John. 3:5-6:

*“And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. (6) **Whoever abides in him does not sin.** Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.”* (boldness added)

1 John 3:9:

“Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.” (boldness added)

1 John 5:18:

“We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.” (boldness added)

Wow! So if you are born again, you cannot sin! Why? Because God’s Spirit and our spirit are now one together, and He shares His nature with us. Since God cannot sin, and our spirit is one with God, we cannot sin! God doesn’t make sinful children, He only has children that reflect Him. That’s why it’s absurd to think that we could be sons and daughters of God, and sinners at the same time. Since we are spiritual beings who are one with God’s Spirit, our spirit can never sin! But why then at times do we still struggle against sin? Because our soul has not been perfected yet, and can still sin. So in this way we can still sin, but it’s not ever in our nature to do so. The only time we sin, is when we allow sin to manifest in our soul and override the life of God in our spirit, causing our soul to sin (1 Pet. 2:11). Our spirit can never sin, because it is perfected in God. God crucified the old nature, and gave us a new nature!

It’s not so much about what we do, it’s about who we are. The cross of Christ brought an identity change. We went from sinners to saints (or saintess... haha). From orphans, to sons and daughters of God. We went from having a nature of sin, to having a nature of love! When we were sinners, the attributes of God in our soul may have helped us do some good works, but our nature

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was still a sinner. As born again believers it's now the opposite. Even though we may sometimes sin, it's now in our nature to always do what is right! Just because you play baseball a little bit, doesn't make you a professional baseball player. Just because a child of God sometimes sins, or makes mistakes, doesn't make them a sinner.

Heb. 10:14:

"For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

Rom. 12:2 NIV:

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

I think this is where the Christian life has often been misunderstood. Many have mistaken the need to have a renewed mind in our soul, for us still being in bondage to the sin nature. When we were born again God's Spirit came and re-birthed our spirit making us a completely new creation in Christ. Our nature is now to love, and to always do what is right. He also killed the sin nature that was manifesting in our body.

Rom. 8:10-11:

*"But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. (11) And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, **he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.**" (boldness added)*

Our bodies were "dead" from sin living in them. Christ killed the sin nature that was living in our body for us. So the moment we accepted Him, His Spirit came and made our spirit alive, and is now filling our body with His resurrection life. Our bodies are no longer vessels of sin, but dwelling places of the Spirit of the living God! The problem here is that our soul is

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now beginning to be filled with God's life, but it can still have attitudes, thoughts, and ways in it left over from the sin nature. The sin nature wasn't always just compelling us into sin blindly, it was discipling the mind of our soul to think, desire, and live sinfully. So in our spirit we have the mind of Christ, but in our soul we need the revelations, thoughts, and desires of God to transform our soul into the image of God that is already in our spirit.

This is the transformation process. The attributes, thoughts, desires, motives, ways, and works of God's love flowing from our spirit (and His Spirit) into our soul, through our body, and into the world around us. Thus discipling our soul into the thoughts and ways of God. The more our soul is filled with the nature of God's love, the more His love will flow through us steadily as rivers of living water into the world around us (John 7:38). The more our soul is filled with sinful thoughts and desires, the more it can hinder the flow of the life of God through us. That's why it says He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified, or purified. Our spirit is perfected forever in the righteous love of God, but our soul is still being perfected.

Eph. 4:22-24 NIV:

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; (23) to be made new in the attitude of your minds; (24) and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Out with the old, in with the new! Now we are in the process of receiving the manifestation of our new nature, the nature of God's love, into our souls; while putting off the old nature, the sin nature. Removing the old attitudes, thoughts, and ways, and being filled with the new ones! And it says that our new man is created to be like God, in true righteousness and holiness. Our new man is holy, perfect, righteous, and filled with the love of God! Once again we are love filled spiritual beings that have a soul, that dwell in a temporary body, and are freed from sin! Glory to God!!!

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Love vs. Sin

God's love is the most powerful force in all creation! Nothing compares to the power and wisdom of God's love. It is infinite in every way possible! The sin nature however is not infinite, very limited in power, and even it's wisdom is foolishness to God (1 Cor. 3:19). Every thought, desire, word, and work that we can have comes from one of these two natures. There is no third nature that is the nature of man. Everything that people are and do comes from one of these two natures.

Those who are separated from the nature of God, are slaves to the sin nature, and therefore it is in their nature to sin. That's why they are called sinners. Not because they are completely incapable of doing good. As I said before there is still a measure of God's attributes in people that enable them to do good (though without God's attributes they are incapable of doing good). They are sinners because they are not born again, and it is in their nature to sin.

As soon as someone becomes born again they are no longer sinners, but righteous sons and daughters of the living God! It is now our nature to always love, since we have become one with God, and are alive in Christ. We are no longer sinners because it is no longer in our nature to sin. Since our spirit is now one with the Spirit of God, and has been perfected forever, it no longer has the capacity to sin (though we can sin in our soul). It is now in our nature for us to always do what is right. The sin nature has been rendered powerless in our lives, and all the attributes of God's love have become the compelling forces that are working to fill our entire beings with love! These attributes are now manifesting the thoughts, desires, motives, words, ways and works of the Lord through our spirit, soul, and body. We are now dead to sin, giving it no power to manifest in our lives anymore. This is part of the great and glorious news of the gospel! Isn't that amazing?! On the other hand though, if we choose to submit to sin again in our soul, it can begin to manifest. The way that sin manifests in our soul is through our free will choices /agreements.

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2 Cor. 1:20:

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”

God gives a big “Yes” to us in Christ for us to receive all of His promises. Our spirit receives the full manifestation of every promise of God in Christ, the moment we receive Him into our lives. In order to receive the manifestation of His promises into our soul and body though, we need to say “Amen” (let it be so), and agree by faith with every single promise. Faith, knowledge, and understanding can empower the truths of God to manifest His love in and through our entire being. We must choose to agree with these truths in our souls, and live by them, in order for them to manifest. Often times though, in order for us to agree with a truth, we must first also know what that truth is.

The sin nature can operate in our lives through a similar principle. The source of all lies is the sin nature. That’s why the devil is called “the father of lies,” is because he was the first to be overtaken and corrupted by the thoughts (lies) of the sin nature. The devil is a slave to sin, just like anyone else who is separated from God. Which is also why the devil is not our greatest enemy, sin is. Without sin manifesting in our lives, the devil has no power over us, just like he had no power over Jesus (John 14:30). That’s why 1 John 5:18 says that one who is born of God does not sin, and the wicked one cannot touch him.

The way that the lies of the sin nature manifest in our lives is by choosing to believe them. Whenever someone agrees with a lie from the sin nature, whether it’s spoken by a demon, another person, or directly, that person then can receive a manifestation of that lie into their soul. This can then cause that person to live out of false realities, and commit sins that reflect that lie. I liken this to someone agreeing to sign a contract to own something. The moment I sign my name to that contract I become the owner of whatever I have agreed to. If we agree with God’s promises, we own those promises, and they begin to manifest in our lives. If we agree with the lies of the devil, then we will temporarily “own”

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those lies until we renounce, or repent of those agreements (The good news is that Jesus ripped up all those contracts, we simply have to agree with Him on it for it to be enacted).

This is why believing the lie that we are still in bondage to the sin nature can actually enable sin to manifest in believer's lives! Which then causes them to believe even more that they are in bondage to sin, when they've actually been deceived into believing a lie! On the contrary though, if we choose to agree with the truth that we have been set free from sin, and are the righteousness of God in Christ, we will empower the promises and nature of God to manifest in our lives instead!

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

Rom. 6:11:

"Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Even if there are wrong thoughts or mindsets in our soul, that doesn't mean that sin has the power to operate in our lives. That's why I said that our agreements can allow sin to manifest, but it doesn't necessarily cause it to do so. There is a big difference between there being wrong mindsets still left in our soul, and sin being alive and operating through our lives on a regular basis. The reason for this is because we are dead to sin and alive in Christ. When you're dead sin cannot live in you, or operate through you any longer. You may still have a bunch of leftover residue (mindsets/attitudes) that needs to be cleansed out of your soul, but these mindsets are inactive (or dead/powerless) now, and your overall nature as a spiritual being is righteousness.

Remember the Scripture earlier that said that the sin nature has been "rendered powerless?" Well powerless means, it has no power to operate in our lives! Instead we are powerfully filled with the love and glory of God! The attributes of His love are alive and active within us, manifesting more and more of Himself. Because God's Spirit is so full of God's love and righteousness, which is

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so much more powerful than sin, the old attitudes of sin in our soul are rendered inactive, or powerless, unless we choose to act upon them. That's why we need to walk in the Spirit of God in order for His life to manifest through our soul and keep us from sin (Gal.5:16).

Rom. 6:12:

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies that you should obey it in its lusts. (13) And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (14) For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

Now we have a choice: Live by our new nature, and the righteousness of God. Or go back to the old nature, and allow sin to manifest in our lives again. That's where many of the problems come in for believers. Because of the wrong attitudes, or mindsets, that may still remain in the souls of believers, many often think that they are still in bondage to sin even though they are not. By choosing to live out of these wrong mindsets, we can then allow sin to begin to manifest again in different parts of our lives. Which then allows sin to come “alive” again so to speak, until that person chooses to repent of those choices. Bill Johnson says, “Many believers are using their resurrection power to resurrect the old man.”

In the old covenant sin sprang to life through the law, in the new covenant sin can spring back to life if we choose to submit to it. That's why it says here in Romans not to let sin reign in your bodies, but instead present yourselves as God's vessels of righteousness. Sin no longer has dominion over us, but we have dominion over sin in Christ. We have to choose to follow God, and to reject sin, in order to stay free from sin. A huge part of this is being able to discern the mindsets of sin, and the truths of God. Since the nature of sin is deception (Rom. 7:11), and the nature of deception is that you don't know that you've been deceived, this can be a little tricky at times. That's why it's called

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being deceived, is because the person who is deceived sincerely believes that the lie is actually the truth.

This is part of why there are many false doctrines in the body of Christ, and lies in the world today. Sin is very deceptive. That's also how sin gains power in a person's life is through deceiving them into thinking that a lie is actually the truth. Because the sin nature also manifests desires, or emotions, with it's lies (or thoughts), many people even feel like the lie is the truth, causing them to believe even more in the lie. This causes people to then live out of false realities, thinking lies are truth, and actually feeling like those lies are the true realities of life. It can actually be a bit sobering when you think about it, especially when you realize how many lies people, including believers, are believing right now.

Since the sin nature itself is a weak, defeated, foolishness nature, it tries to gain power in a person's life by causing them to believe lies over truth. It can only gain power over us by trying to deceive us out of receiving God's power into our lives. God is all-powerful and sin cannot even compare to God's power in us. That's why the Scripture we covered earlier (Rom 5:16) said how much more shall we reign in life through God's righteousness. The smallest amount of God's power is greater than the greatest "power" of sin. Once again this is why it's so important for us to believe that we are dead to sin and filled with Christ's righteousness!

In fact Jesus made this incredible statement about the power we have over sin and the enemy:

Luke 10:19:

"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

God gives us authority and power over ALL the power of the enemy. Since the enemy's "power" comes from the sin nature, that means we also have complete dominion over sin. Since the smallest amount of God's power is greater than the greatest

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“power” of sin, that means we also have power over all of the devil’s power/the power of evil as well. In fact, Jesus says that if we truly believe this, NOTHING shall by any means harm us!!
Wow!

Sin and the devil gain “power” in our lives by us choosing to not receive and manifest God’s powerful love, and instead yielding to sin. Even though we may have wrong attitudes in our souls, they are dead, inactive and powerless through the cross of Christ. It’s when we choose to live out of those attitudes that we can then allow sin to manifest in some part of our life. The moment we repent, or exercise our authority over it we are set free. We don’t need to know every truth, or be set free from every lie to walk victoriously, because the wrong mindsets in our souls are inactive unless we choose to activate them.

As a new creation in Christ, and a child of God’s righteous love, we now have a new nature. His nature in our spirit, is now our nature, and our identity. We should no longer identify with anything that has to do with the old life, or the old nature. For “old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.” (2 Cor. 5:17) We now have all new thoughts, desires, motives, words, ways, and works of love as being who we are in Christ. These things are ALWAYS manifesting in our spirit, and are beginning to/will manifest in ever-increasing measures through our whole being.

Anything that has to do with sin, is not part of who we are anymore. Anything that has to do with the righteous love of God, is now our identity in Christ. That’s why it says that we have now become the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21). Meaning that His righteousness is now our righteousness in Him. We are now love-filled spiritual beings, who are becoming more and more like Jesus.

Since our spiritual man is filled with the love and nature of God, we should always be far more focused on the all-surpassing righteous love of God that is in us, which is also now our identity/nature in Him, than we are on sin. We should be far more conscious of how righteous we are in God’s love, than

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anything else. The amount of God's love that is manifesting in our spirit is far greater than all sin, let alone the little bit of wrong mindsets that may need to be renewed in our souls.

What we really need is to know that God's nature is so much more powerful than anything else, to learn to walk in His nature as His children, and walk in authority against sin. It's that easy! By choosing to walk in God's nature, we win!

The nature of God's love is the only thing that can defeat, destroy, and disempower sin. Nothing else can defeat sin, because there is no other nature in existence. We can either choose God or the devil, love or sin, righteousness or unrighteousness, truth or lies. The only other option is emptiness (which means nothing is there). I would say though, that one of the main needs we have as believers is to be filled with the truths of God's love.

Hosea 4:6:

"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge."

John 8:31-32:

"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. (32) And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'"

John 17:17:

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

We are to be sanctified, renewed in our minds, and transformed in our souls by the revelations and truths of God. We NEED to be filled with the knowledge of God. So many Christians have not yet realized that we NEED truth, it is not an option for living. Having a lack of knowledge in the body of Christ only makes it easier for sin to manifest in that void. I believe the main reason that people get deceived is because they simply don't know the truth! We need to hunger for the truths of God, so that we can walk in the freedom that Christ paid for us to walk in. Truth empowers us to live the righteous lives that Christ paid for us to live!

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Hosea 10:12 NLT:

“I said, Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of my love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.”

It’s time for us to walk in the righteous nature of His love that He gave us, to walk free from sin, and to bear the fruits of His love among the nations! Hallelujah!

As a side note, when we live from the union of the Spirit and our spirit, as spiritual beings, God’s nature will manifest through our whole being: spirit, soul, and body as one. It’s not like the thoughts of God go from our spirit, take about 3 seconds and then hit our soul, and then 3 seconds later manifest in our body. This “process” can take place simultaneously, so that all 3 are experiencing the thoughts, desires, motives, words, and works of God as one/together. So whenever I talk about the manifestations of God flowing from our spirit/the Spirit, through our soul and body, just keep that in mind. On the other hand though, if we choose to allow sin to manifest in our soul, then this does not manifest in our spirit, because our spirit cannot sin. Sin cannot manifest in God, and since our spirit is one with God, sin cannot manifest in our spirit. Instead what happens is that we allow the sin in our soul to override the life of God in our spirit, and it can then lead our body into sin. Our body can receive, the manifestation of whatever is going on in our soul, whether good or bad, because our body has no capacity to function without our soul/spirit being in it (though as we covered earlier, if we live by the Spirit our body is dead to sin, but alive and full of life in the Spirit of God). If we choose to submit our soul to sin, we will be living contrary to the Spirit/nature of God in our spirit, until we choose to repent, and our soul comes back into submission to the Spirit of God. A big key here is to always remember that you are a spiritual child of God who is one with the Spirit/nature of God, that has a soul, dwells in a temporary body, and is dead to sin.

Chapter 6

No Longer Sinners But Saints

I would like to address some of the key Scripture passages that people use for the doctrine that believers are still sinners. Now I want you to remember that I once was taught and believed this lie. This is why I'm not shy in taking some good time to make sure that together we can see the light of God's truth. It's not about my doctrine versus your doctrine, it's about lies versus truth. Only the truth can make us free, and by believing lies we can actually allow sin to manifest so that we live out of false realities. Only by receiving God's truths and promises will we be set free from these false realities. In order to receive the truth though, at times we need to humble ourselves and realize that maybe we have been deceived into believing lies.

I wanted to first share the truth with you, so hopefully by now you can already see that we really are righteous saints and children of God, free from the sin nature. But just in case let's go over some of the main Scriptures that people have wrongly interpreted as meaning we are still sinners. Even if you are convinced by now that you're not a sinner anymore, this can be helpful for when you meet people who believe otherwise (as there are many who believe this way right now).

Romans 7 is the main section referred to in this doctrine. We will go over multiple Scriptures in this chapter. It's important to note that in chapter 6 is where Paul said that our old man was buried with Christ, declaring multiple times that we are now free from sin. In chapter 7 Paul starts off by talking about the law

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(please feel free to turn their in your own Bible). In the first 3 verses Paul shares on how the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives, but if that person dies they are free from the law. Then it goes on:

Rom. 7:4-7:

“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. (5) For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. (6) But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.”

I believe this right here summarizes the main points that Paul wanted to make throughout the whole chapter. Since we died with Christ we are now dead to the law, so that we can bear fruit to God. Notice how it says in vs. 5, “when we were in the flesh” as being past tense, and in vs. 6 “But now we have been delivered from the law”. Remember from earlier that it was the law that provided the opportunity for sin to come alive in the first place. So when we died with Christ, we died to the law, so that we might walk in the resurrection life of the Spirit, free from sin!!

Rom. 7:8b NIV:

“For apart from law sin is dead.”

Now I want you to read the rest of the chapter with the understanding that we are now free from the law, free from sin, and alive in Christ. Sin is now dead to us because Christ set us free from the law, and apart from the law sin is dead. In Romans 7:7-25 Paul then begins to explain how the law enabled sin to come alive, and what life was like for him when he was under the law. Paul is obviously not talking about his current walk with God. Instead he is sharing how without Christ the law only allowed sin to produce evil in him by showing him what was righteous, but

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giving him no power to obey it. Instead the evil that he did not want to do, that's what he kept doing. Why? Because he was still a sinner in bondage to the sin nature that was being "made alive" through the law. Let's look at some key verses from this passage and compare them with other verses so you can see what I mean:

Rom. 7:14:

"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin."

It is obvious Paul is talking about his old life under the law when he says that the law is spiritual, but he is carnal, sold under sin. He just got done mentioning in chapter 6 that we have been set free from sin to become slaves of God, how could he still be sold under sin? We are no longer sin's property, but God's (1 Cor. 6:20)! Also I shared many verses above where Paul says that our new man is spiritual and created in the image of God. Once again proving that Paul has to be talking about his old life before Christ in chapter 7! Rom. 8:2 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." This is a verse in Chapter 8 that explains that the new law we live by is the law of the Spirit of life that empowers us to walk in Christ, free from sin and death.

Rom. 7:18-20:

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. (19) For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. (20) Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."

Once again it is very obvious to me that Paul is talking about his old life under the law. Here he says that nothing good dwells in him, that he practices evil that he doesn't want to do, that he cannot find the power to perform what is good, and it's sin dwelling in him that is doing these things. What about all the verses we went over earlier about us reigning in the life and righteousness of Christ (Rom. 5:17), how God works in us

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for His good purposes (Phil. 2:13), and how the sin nature has been “rendered powerless.” This doesn’t sound like a powerless sin nature, and a man filled with the righteousness of God. This sounds like someone who is trying to obey God’s laws, with little to no help from God enabling Him to do so, and a sin nature that’s enslaving him to sin. We are now the righteousness of God in Christ, and His attributes of righteousness are continually empowering us to think, speak, and act rightly! I think this chapter can also be understood by its final verses.

Rom. 7:24-25:

“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (25) I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Here’s the answer right here—Jesus Christ delivered us from the body of sin!! Thank You Jesus!! Glory to God!!!

Rom. 6:18:

“And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

Rom. 6:22:

“But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.”

Rom. 8:8-9:

“So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (9) But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.”

Once again we are free from sin!! Those who are in the flesh, or have sin as their nature, cannot please God. But we are not in the flesh (sin nature), because we are now in the Spirit of God, resurrected into righteousness and filled with His life! Thank You Jesus! He destroyed the body of death!!!

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Chief of Sinners or Christ-like?

Another verse that people have misinterpreted is in 1 Timothy 1:12-16.

1 Tim. 1:12-16:

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, (13) although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. (14) And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. (15) This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. (16) However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”

In this passage Paul is talking about his old life before Christ and how bad he was. He is also thanking God for showing mercy to him by saying that he is an example of how merciful God is to save someone who persecuted and killed Christians. Then God went even further by making him a great leader of the Christian faith. Where some people have misinterpreted this passage is in verse 15 where Paul says he is the chief of sinners. It is obvious once again that in the context of the entire passage Paul is referring to his old life before Christ, and how God has now showed him mercy by making him a minister of God's love. It really makes no sense to think that Paul is saying that he is currently the chief of all sinners! This is probably a mistranslation error as well. The NLT version translates verse 15 saying that Paul “was” the worst sinner, as in past tense. This makes much more sense. Think about this with a little wisdom and common sense. If Paul was such a great apostle and example of Christ, how then could he say that he was the chief of sinners? What about these verses:

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1 Cor. 11:1:

“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

1 Thess. 2:10:

“You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe.”

Phil. 4:9 NIV:

“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

If Paul is the chief of all sinners how can he command people to imitate him as He imitates Christ? There is no sin in Christ, so that would be blasphemy to call yourself the chief of sinners and then tell people that you are imitating Christ! If Paul was the chief of all sinners, yet so great a Christian, then pastors who cheat on their wives and run off with their churches money should be praised for being like Paul! Nonsense. Or how about the other two passages where Paul shares how blameless an example they were among the Thessalonians, and how anything that the Philippians saw in Paul they should do also. To be blameless means to be without sin, or fault. So for Paul to say he behaved blamelessly among the Thessalonians, and that ANYTHING the Phillippians saw, heard, learned, or received from Paul should be put into practice, is to say that Paul was manifesting such a righteousness of Christ that it was as if he was “without fault” among them. Now that’s pretty incredible!

If Paul really struggled with sin as much as some people say he did, he could never truthfully make statements like this. In order to walk in this level of godliness, to where you can say these kinds of statements, requires a righteousness that reflects the very life of Jesus Himself! Now I’m sure Paul wasn’t as perfect as Jesus in his soul, but he must have been filled with a pretty amazing amount of God’s righteousness, and struggled with a pretty tiny amount of sin, to be able to make these kinds of statements. Only a man filled with the righteous love of God,

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who is set free from sin, could make such bold statements about his life!

Here is one last verse that I've often heard in this false doctrine:

Gal. 5:17 NIV:

“For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”

This verse is not saying that we are in this constant battle of desires from the sinful nature warring against the desires of the Spirit, and we are stuck in the middle with no way out. It's declaring that we can either choose to follow the desires of the Spirit, or follow the desires of the sin nature, there is no other option. I can't just decide that I don't want to follow either, and live my own life apart from God and sin. It's saying that we don't get to make up our own desires, and do whatever we want. We either follow God, or we follow sin. Whatever nature we choose to follow, we now are against the nature that is contrary. (If we choose to follow God we are against sin, or if we choose to follow sin we are against God. Matt. 12:30) A few verses down in that same chapter Paul then makes this statement:

Gal. 5:24 NIV:

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.”

In other words, if you belong to Christ He already crucified all the desires of the sin nature to the cross, and set you free from sin, so that you can now walk freely in His desires instead! Woohoo! Glory to God! All our old sinful desires Jesus crucified to the cross, and they are no longer ours! Isn't that gloriously amazing?!!

There is another point that I'd like to make about these things. I have heard this statement many times: “You gotta crucify your flesh daily!” Implying that we have to crucify “our own” sin nature every day, because God didn't do it for us. This is another

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wrong belief that comes from not rightly understand what Jesus did for us on the cross. How could we think that we could possibly do something that Christ already did for us? We don't have the power to crucify the old nature, only God does, and He already did it for us 2,000 years ago on the cross of Christ! That's why it says in Gal. 5:24 that the sin nature was crucified, past tense. Jesus did for us what we could never do on our own. Now we simply need to believe and receive the experiential manifestation of that victory into our lives! Hallelujah!

Death Equals Life

1 Cor. 15:31:

"I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."

Luke 9:23:

"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'"

Paul says that He dies daily, and Jesus said to deny ourselves to follow Him. What does this mean? As I said before there are still sinful attitudes, thoughts, and ways in our soul that need to be transformed into the image of Christ. The way we do this is by receiving the revelations of God's love and righteousness. These then replace the lies and false attitudes in our soul by filling our soul with His nature. Every part of our soul that has a wrong mindset needs to be denied, taken to the cross, and then resurrected into the life of Christ that we already have in our spirit. Then our spirit, soul, and body will be in agreement with God's life, and His life will flow through us more perfectly.

This is part of the process of sanctification. It's not just about our actions. It's about changing the mindsets, thoughts, and ways that we act and speak out of, by filling us with the righteous life of Christ. That's why repentance can also mean to change the way you think. We exchange the old thoughts and ways for the

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new! The death of Christ on the cross should always lead us to the resurrection life of Christ now being formed more fully in us. Dying to the old life should always lead us into the new life we have in Christ. When we die to the old life (flesh), we live by the new one (Spirit/spirit). We don't crucify our own flesh, because Christ already did that for us. What we do instead, is choose to receive what Christ has done for us by choosing to live by the resurrection life of Christ in our spirit, or new man/woman, and denying any manifestations of the old life in our soul as being part of who are. Which then fills our soul with the righteous life of God, making it even easier to live as new creations in Christ. This process is so much easier when we know that we are righteous sons and daughters of His love, and no longer sinners. It is our free will choice that enables sin to come alive again in us, or leaves it buried at the cross to only live in love for all eternity. Make sense?

I'll give a couple practical examples:

Let's say that before Christ you used to do drugs, party, and have sex with random people. When you get saved there are mindsets, or ways of thinking, as well as memories of the old life still in your soul. For instance, before you were saved you might think something like, "I love pot (marijuana)", or "I plan to do drugs until the day I die." But when you get saved you realize that God is the ultimate high, that's why one of His names is The Most High God.

So now you could change the mindsets to "I love God, not pot," and "His joy is a greater high than any drug out there." This will then help you desire to change your actions to seeking God, instead of thinking about doing drugs. The truth sets you free! Actually experiencing God's love and joy for you is what will help you to realize that these things are really true. Without experiencing His love it may seem like just words. This is what religion does. Declares "truths" that bring no life. This is partly why many people still struggle with basic sins. They haven't yet experienced the manifestations of God's love that help them to

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realize that His love is so much greater than the false pleasures of sin. His experiential love is the answer!

Let's do another one:

Maybe you didn't do a bunch of drugs or party, but you did have sex with multiple partners, and have struggled staying pure as a believer. A big part of the blood of Jesus is that when God forgives, He forgets. Since we have His mind now, we need to also do the same. By realizing that those actions never took place in God's mind, you can begin to walk in the freedom of knowing that in your mind those things never happened (cause you have the mind of Christ), and according to God's records you've always been pure. So if a sexual memory pops up in your mind, often times it can bring a desire with it that you had during that experience. If you choose to still believe that this memory belongs to you, you may start entertaining it, or find yourself struggling to fight against it.

As a new creation we should know that all sinful desires and thoughts are crucified with Christ, and that we only desire righteous things. So what we should do is reject those desires and thoughts as being ours, since we no longer think that way, and instead begin to think of something righteous. (You can also consciously choose to think new thoughts of righteousness towards that person while forgetting the old thoughts) This is a much easier way to get rid of these kinds of thoughts than if you try to fight against them, or stuff them down, as if they are your own thoughts. This will also help you to change the way you think about that person, by renewing the thought process of your soul to think more righteously if that person comes to mind, or you see them again.

Forget the past memories of that person that are negative, and change the way that you think about them to be more in line with God's heart. Remember that sin wants to deceive us. In this situation the deception is that the past memories and desires are still part of who you are. Those memories don't belong to you anymore, because Christ paid for that old man to be destroyed and all your sins forgotten! This can take quite a bit of practice

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at first, but if you persist it'll make a very big difference in your thought life. Also this can be applied to any past situations of sin, and with any person.

I believe one of the biggest and easiest keys to walking in victory over sin, and in the righteous love of God, is simply to not receive/reject any negative thought or desire that tries to come into your mind/heart. Since our old self was crucified with Christ, any thought/desire from the sin nature is no longer a part of who we are, and should therefore be instantly rejected as not our thought/desire. When we realize that we are new creations in Christ, who have a righteous nature of love, then we should also realize that the only thoughts, desires, motives, words, and works that are truly part of who we are, are the righteous ones that come from God. Everything else is not part of who we are in Christ anymore, and should not to be received as "our" thoughts, desires, etc. Yes we do need to repent of our agreements/actions if we choose to receive sinful thoughts and/or act upon them. But what I mean here is that just because a sinful thought/desire comes into your heart, doesn't mean it's your thought! Those thoughts are no longer ours, and therefore should be treated as something that doesn't belong to us anymore.

This is a much easier way to deal with negative thoughts, rather than trying to fight against them, or stuff them down, thinking that they still belong to you. Yes there can be a need for transformation as well, but the principle of rejecting sinful thoughts that pop into our mind as not being ours, (while knowing we only think righteous thoughts in Christ) is one of the easiest steps to walking in greater victory today.

These may seem like simple steps, but believe me they will make a huge difference in your life! Also the principles here can be used across the board for any type of sin, no matter how big or small. There are other practical ways to put these things into practice, but hopefully these will help for now. I still to this day use these principles to continue to walk victoriously over sin.

30 Day Guarantee 😊

Sin can never deceive someone into becoming more like God, it can only deceive people so that they don't become like God. Only God's nature can enable us to walk in righteousness. Meaning that it would be impossible for someone to experience a much greater and more victorious Christian life by believing that they are no longer a sinner, but a righteous saint, unless God's truths are empowering them to do so.

During the time when I had believed the lie that I was still a sinner, the Christian walk was a real struggle for me. My life was like a roller-coaster of going back and forth between being on fire for God, and then walking close to the fires of hell. When I was walking faithfully with the Lord it was very challenging, and most days I felt like I was more surviving and hanging on, than living victoriously. I felt that it was impossible to live without sinful thoughts, since I was constantly having to fight against "my own sin nature" day after day.

Sound familiar? I know that many others have had similar experiences from believing this lie. I had heard of people teaching that our sin nature was dead, and so we were free from sin, but I didn't understand what they meant by that. Once I actually started learning what that meant, I decided to put it into practice and see what would happen. For the first day or so it was a little uncomfortable for me. It was hard to believe that walking in righteousness was that easy, and that I had struggled so long because of religious lies.

Now I am very grateful to say that within just a few days of believing and receiving the truth that I am a saint of God, and not a sinner, all of a sudden things changed! For the first time in my life as a believer I actually felt like I was truly alive! It became so much easier for me to think good thoughts throughout the day, resist temptation, and not feel like I was constantly fighting against my own self. I started seeing that I really had dominion over sin, instead of vice versa. It became so much easier to live in God's righteousness! It is so refreshing to be able to enjoy the

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Christian life, having constant victories, and being able to focus more on advancing God's kingdom instead of fighting against myself. Though I have been challenged at times, it is so much easier for me to overcome now that I know more rightly who I am as a son of the living God! And the more I learn what it means that I am a righteous son of God, the greater the level of purity, holiness, righteousness, and most importantly the love of God, that I continue to grow in!

Christ didn't die so we could struggle with sin all our lives, just barely hanging on until He comes back, or we "die". He died so we could live victoriously like He did. He came to restore a sinless nature like Adam and Eve originally had so that we could advance His kingdom, and make disciples of nations. His love seeks our highest good unconditionally. Leaving us to struggle with a sin nature for the rest of our lives is not the best life that God could give us. His love destroyed the old nature of sin so we could walk in the greatest and fullest life possible in His love today!

John 10:10 NIV:

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

I realize that for many of you this message can cause a variety of different responses. Many of you may already know you are a righteous saint/saintess. Others may be excited and joyful to know they are now free from sin. And still others may be very disturbed, or grieved, that they believed such a harmful lie for so long. I know that this can be very humbling, freeing, exciting, and at the same time angering. It is not fun to realize that you've been lied to for years, and could've been walking in greater freedom a long time ago. I am convinced that if I had known these things earlier on, my Christian walk would have been so much easier.

There are many things that I've been taught as a Christian that I later realized were lies, and it can be very grieving when this happens. In fact many of the revelations in this book are things

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that I was so amazed and excited about when God first showed me. But then later at times I would also be angry, or grieved, that I hadn't learned these things earlier in my Christian life (or had been taught wrong things instead). I encourage you to rejoice that you now know the truth, and that you are being set free.

I also challenge you to put these things into practice for the next 30 days, and see what a big difference it makes. In fact I'll even guarantee it'll work for you, or you can get your money back! Haha, totally kidding. Sincerely though, test it out and see what happens. I am convinced that once you begin to live as a righteous son/daughter, free from sin, you'll never want to go back to the lie that you still have a sin nature. I've seen 100's make this change, and to this day have yet to hear of one that wanted to go back to believing they were still in bondage to the sin nature. I'll leave you with this Scripture passage from Colossians that does a great job of summarizing this chapter, and a little activation. In this passage it also shows that the old covenant of circumcision was a sign of the new covenant circumcision, which is the removal of the sin nature from our lives:

Col. 2:11-15 NIV:

"In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, (12) having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. (13) When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, (14) having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. (15) And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Now think about your own life for a moment. Are there areas where you've allowed the sin nature to dominate your life? Are there things from the past that you've struggled with by thinking that sin is still part of who you are? I encourage you to

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take some time and ask God to show you areas of your life where you need to apply these principles (maybe even go back to the examples above and see which ones could help you). Ask Him to show you how to walk in His righteousness in those areas. Also ask Him to show you different ways to practically live as a new creation who is one in spirit with Him, and is freed from sin.

Let's declare this out loud:

“I declare that I am a righteous, holy, wonderful, awesome, loving son/daughter of God! I am created in the image of love, from love, for love, through love, in love, and to display the love of God in all that I am and do! I was created to bring glory to God. I am no longer a sinner! Everything that has to do with the old me, is no longer part of who I am. I am a righteous saintess/saint who's nature is to always do what is right. I am a spiritual being that has a soul, and dwells in a temporary body. I am a perfected daughter/son, but also a work in progress. Praise God for His great and magnificent love for me!”

Further Reading:

Supernatural Ways of Royalty by Kris Vallotton

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Chapter 7

CH. ??? The Sin Nature...

I wanted to let you know that originally I had planned to put a couple chapters in here about the sin nature and how it manifests in people's lives. After praying about it a bit though, I felt led by the Spirit to leave these 2 chapters out for now. Maybe in the future I will include them in an expanded form of this book. There are many reasons why I believe it was good for me to leave them out for the time being. One is that too many believers are already so focused on how sinful they are, while not being nearly focused/educated enough on how amazing, righteous, and glorious we are in Christ. Whatever we focus on increases in our lives, so when people are constantly focusing on sin, that's what will be likely to manifest in their lives. But if we choose to continually focus on how incredibly righteous, holy, powerful, wise, and more, we are in God's love, then these things will continue to flourish in our lives instead.

The only force in all of creation that can defeat sin, and remove it from our lives, is the nature of God's love. So the only way for us to actually become more holy, is by continually receiving greater revelations and manifestations of His love for us. Which is another reason why the vast majority of this book is focused on discovering God's nature of love, what Jesus did for us on the cross of His love, and who we are as sons and daughters of His love. Without first learning these essential truths, we won't have the ability to truly walk in His love like we were created to.

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There are definitely some important revelations that God has revealed to me about the sin nature, and how it manifests in people's lives though. That is why I have decided to make these 2 chapters/teachings available for free online if you would like to read/download them. I think it's far more important for us to know how to rightly live as children of God's love, before we start learning more about all the different kinds of deceptions that come from sin. Therefore I encourage you to finish reading the rest of the book before reading these other chapters, if you're interested. Please be aware that if you do decide to read them, that you may find some things coming to light that you didn't realize were a problem before!

With that being said, there is a few key points from those chapters that I still think are important for understanding the rest of the book. One is that the root of all sin is selfishness and envy (according to James 3:14). All sin has one thing in common-You! (Or self) The sin nature is all about selfish, conditional love, that always seeks one's own best interests, regardless of any cost it may bring to others. It is a conditional, self-love, that requires people to be or do something specific, in order for us to show love to them. God's love on the other hand is a selfless, unconditional love, that always seeks the highest good of all people, and is always willing to make any sacrifice necessary to help another.

I also believe that generally speaking, all of the mindsets of sin can be broken down into 3 main categories: Religious thinking, Natural thinking, and Worldly thinking. I explain in detail the differences of these 3 in those chapters. Since I mention the word "religious" in this book a number of times, I want you to know that I'm not referring to the good kind of religion that is spoken of in James 1:26-27. What I am referring to instead is a form of sin that manifests itself as being "the ways of God." This is a form of sin that literally tries to promote sin, while disguising itself as being from God. The doctrine we went over about believers still being sinners and saints at the same time, is a form of false "religious" doctrine. The rest you can go check out online, if you want to learn more. And may you be richly

CH. ??? The Sin Nature...

blessed in all the incredible revelations of God's love for you, as you continue to read!

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Chapter 8

The Full Inheritance of His Love

Hmmm...the love of God is so good isn't it?! He is truly spectacular! So now we're on to some more very important truths to understanding the nature of our Father's love. The love of our Heavenly Father is so beyond anything that we could ever experience from the world. I think that because the love of God towards us is so undeniably overwhelming, that so many (including myself) have had trouble truly believing that He could love us so much. Not only that, but to make things worse, many have taught things that aren't true regarding God's eternal love for us. This book started by exposing some wrong foundations of understanding God's love that have existed in the church for centuries, and it certainly doesn't stop here.

Now I want to preface this chapter by saying once again that I am simply beginning to understand the infinite vastness of many of the truths that we are about to go over together. So if you're having trouble wrapping your mind around these things, stop! Instead let His mind wrap around you! Let the mind of Christ that's in your spirit, wrap around the mind of your soul, and fill it with His love! His mind is far too big for us to try to understand it without Him.

I believe that everything that has to do with our life in Christ is founded in the revelations of these main things:

1. The nature of God's love.

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2. What Jesus did for us on the cross.
3. Who we are as sons and daughters of God.
4. The understanding of all of God's creation and created beings (heaven, earth, universe, angels, animals, and all created beings)

All of these subjects are beyond infinite in scope, and have many different levels and categories of knowledge to them. (Since God is the source of all infiniteness He has infinite thoughts just about you, let alone every person and all things, including the knowledge of Himself. The limited sin nature however, doesn't have infinite thoughts period, because it is a foolish, weak, limited, and finite nature.) Ultimately though, all of these are actually found within the full understanding of God's infinitely infinite love. It is God's unconditional love that sent Jesus to die on the cross for us, so that we could be sons and daughters of His love, and reign forever with Him in His kingdom of love (Col. 1:13). So once again the greatest thing we could possibly know and understand is the nature of God's love! Even so, we will touch on pretty much all of these foundational revelations at least a little bit in this chapter. Understanding these revelations more will help us to live more of the full life that Jesus wants us to.

Many understand at least a little bit that God's love is unconditional. The part where we seem to have come up way short though is in what it means that God's love always seeks our highest good unconditionally. This is where I think many have rejected the incredibly great goodness of our Father, because His love can seem too good to be true. Repentance is not just to change our actions. Repentance also means to change the way you think. When we change the way we think to be more according to God's mind, we then live more according to His will. This is what can help change our actions. We need our hearts to be transformed, in order for our actions to change. I am regularly repenting (changing the way I think) because of God continually giving me greater revelations of how great His love for me is! His love is so much greater than what we could ever possibly imagine

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apart from Him. It is His Spirit that continually reveals more and more revelations of His love towards us.

Each new revelation will cause us to think differently, and can often even cause us to think completely opposite to the way we used to. The sin nature, and the nature of God, are opposite and contrary to each other. So often times I think people will only receive partial revelations of the truths of God, because it is so glorious and opposite to what the world says that many don't believe it could be true.

The more I began to realize how incredible His love towards me is, I would often think things like, "This is too good to be true." But God would tell me things like, "It's so good that it has to be true, because I am the source of all goodness!" Every good and perfect gift comes from God (James 1:17). God is a good God, who's in a good mood, and who only gives good gifts to His children. Which means that if it is absolutely glorious, incomparable, amazing, overwhelming, and beyond natural comprehension then it has to be God! Sin can only offer things like doubt, limitations, restrictions, emptiness, torment, and foolishness. So if it's so good that we can hardly believe it, it's probably because we're so used to what the old nature has imparted into our lives that we're having trouble believing that God really is that good!

Our Exceedingly Great Reward

Since the foundation of understanding God's love means that He unconditionally seeks our highest good at all times, what does the highest good part mean? Well think about this, what is the absolute best thing that God could give us? Answer: Himself! Since all goodness is found in Him, or in His attributes, then the greatest thing that God could possibly give us is Himself!

Gen. 15:1:

"After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly

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great reward.”

John 17:22:

“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are One.”

1 Cor. 6:17:

“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”

Wow! God is our exceedingly great reward, and according to John 17 we’ve already received that reward! When Jesus gave (past tense) His glory to us, He was sharing the very nature, person, and love of God with us! This glory is what makes us one spirit/Spirit with God! Jesus didn’t die on the cross just so we could be forgiven, freed from the sin nature, and go to heaven. He died on the cross for so much more! He died so that He could share the very nature, and glory of the Father with us, making us one together with Him! We were created to be one with the nature of our Father’s love!

John 17:23:

*“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.**” (Boldness added)*

Notice how it says that Jesus is in us, and the Father is in Jesus; which means that the Father is also in us!! God living in us, in oneness with us, demonstrates His love towards us! The greatest reward we could possibly receive is to be one with God! One in heart, mind, and will. One in attribute, desire, motive, intention, value system, word, and work. One in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, justice, mercifulness, wisdom, knowledge, power, authority, and so much more! This is why Paul could say “Imitate me just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). He also said:

1 Thess. 2:10:

“You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and

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blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe.”

It is through being one with the nature, or glory, of God that Paul was able to live like Jesus. It was the attributes, desires, thoughts, ways, and works of Jesus living through Paul!

Gal. 2:20 KJV:

*“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live be the faith of the Son of God,** who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*
(boldness added)

Notice how it says “the faith of,” and not just faith in. Paul lived by the love, faith, and life of Jesus living in and with Him. It wasn’t just Jesus living in Paul, it was Jesus being one with Paul. The old Paul was crucified, so the new Paul could live in resurrection glory with Jesus! That is the normal Christian life for every single believer! We are to live from the love of the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in all things. Then the attributes of His love transform us into the image of the One who created us to be one with Him. We were created to be like Jesus!

Rom. 8:29 NIV:

“For those whom God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

Jesus became like us, so we could become like Him! This is our greatest reward, and what we were predestined to in Christ! Too many people think their main calling has to do with their ministry, or occupation. Our main calling is to be conformed into the image of Jesus! That is the greatest and highest purpose of our existence, and everything else is found in that. As we become like Jesus we will find everything else that God created us to be/do.

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We are Heirs of God

So how much of the Father's love is in us, how one are we with Jesus, and what is our true spiritual inheritance from God? Because of the greatness of the depth to these questions, I am mostly only going to answer a little bit of the third one. Believe me when I say that the answers to these questions are far beyond what could possibly be shared in one book. They are also so opposite to what many have believed that it's possible it would be too much for some if I shared the true answers to these questions right now, without expounding more on what it means. (though I plan to share more in the future) Instead I felt led to share the same Scriptures in John 17 we just went over, but in another version (Jesus is saying these things to the Father about all believers):

John 17:22-23 NLT:

"I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are--(23) I in them and you in me, all being perfected into one. Then the world will know that you sent me and will understand that you love them as much as you love me."

So as far as how much the Father loves us, and how one we are with Jesus, just look at these 2 Scriptures. The answers are right there. Just ask God about it, and I'm sure He'll be happy to show you what it means. There are many other Scriptures though to help us answer the 3rd question: What is our spiritual inheritance from God?

That's a great question. Let's take a look at some Scriptures:

Rom. 8:17 NIV:

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

Rom. 8:32:

"He who did not spare His own son, but delivered Him up for us all,

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how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

Eph. 1:3:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."

Wow again! First of all God is our spiritual inheritance! We are heirs of the very nature, glory, and person of God! How much of God? All of Him! Here it says that if He gave His Son for us, how will He not with Him also freely give us all things?! Then it says in Ephesians that God has blessed us with every possible spiritual blessing in the heavenly places IN CHRIST! The attributes of God are eternal, and are what created all things. So the greatest spiritual blessings we could possibly receive are the divine attributes of our Father's love!

These Scriptures say we have inherited His glory, that He has given us all things, and that every spiritual blessing is ours. Which means that all of God's attributes, and everything God created is our inheritance in Him! Woohoo! That is amazingly, stupendously, wondrously beyond compare, out of this world, and incomprehensible according to the natural mind! It's so good it has to be true! Only the Spirit of God could teach us the depths of such infinitely glorious realities. Now that's what I call love that seeks our HIGHEST GOOD! There is nothing greater that God could give us than Himself. So that's what He gave us, and not just a little bit, but all of Himself!

1 Cor. 3:21-23:

*"Therefore let no one boast in men. **For all things are yours:** (22) *whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come--***all are yours. (23) And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.**" (boldness added)*

God bought us through the blood of Jesus. He redeemed us from sin, and into the greatest inheritance/reward He could possibly give us--Himself! For in having Him we have all things.

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He didn't just save us from sin, which is unconditional love, but He saved us into the greatest inheritance of life we could possibly receive! Col. 3:3 "For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

We now live in God, and He lives in us! He is our inheritance, and our exceedingly great reward. We share His life, His heart, His mind, His will, His love, His glory, His attributes, His desires/emotions, His words, and His works in Christ. That is astoundingly good news! In fact that is some of the best news I've ever heard in my entire life! That's why it's called "the gospel," which means "good news." If we only knew and preached these truths of God's love, the world would not be able to resist coming to Jesus! He is truly the desire of all nations.

Haggai 2:7:

"and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory," says the Lord of hosts."

I believe a big part of the shaking here is God shaking all the religious, natural, and worldly mindsets that have been hindering God's children from manifesting His glory to the world. He wants them out, so His glory can come in and through us! It's time we start hearing, believing, and preaching the true messages of God's love for all people. It's not just unconditional love, it's love that seeks our greatest good! Nothing could ever beat the love that God has for us!

The true gospel is so irresistibly good that I believe no one could resist it if they truly knew how great God's love for them is. So why are there still so many unbelievers? And why doesn't a great part of the church manifest Christ's love like this? What is keeping us from manifesting our incredible spiritual inheritance of love? A big reason is because we haven't received the truths of God's promises so that God's glory will manifest through us.

2 Cor. 1:20:

"For all the promises of God in him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to

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the glory of God through us.”

2 Pet. 1:2-4:

*“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, (3) as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by glory and virtue, (4) by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, **that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (boldness added)*

All of the promises of God are a big “Yes” from God in Christ, but we must say “Amen” (Let it be so) in order for the glory of God to manifest through us. 2 Peter says that God has given us ALL THINGS that are a part of life and godliness, which is all of God’s life and attributes! This life is then accessed through our knowledge of Him, which is also revealed to us through His promises. Agreeing with His promises enables us to partake of His diving nature, by manifesting His nature in us. This also causes us to escape the corruption from lust that is in the world. Why is that? Because when we’re full of God’s glory, and realize that all things are ours, we have no reason to lust after anything else. Why would we lust after sin, when we have all good things in Christ?!

No wonder why so many people fall away from God, we haven’t learned how to access the divine inheritance that God has already given us in Christ! If we believe the lies that we don’t possess all things in God, we will most likely never even come close to walking in the full inheritance that God has given us. So no wonder the devil is trying to throw out whatever he can to attempt to keep the children of God from knowing our Father’s incomparably great love towards us. Since our inheritance is accessed through the knowledge of God, we have to actually believe what God has spoken to us (the Amen) in order to actually receive the manifestation of those things!

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Revelation was never meant to be information, but a divinely-enabling grace that actually propels us into the same manifestations of God that it reveals. Revelation plants the seeds, or attributes, of God that then begin to fill us with more and more of His nature. These attributes then bring forth the works of God that were first revealed to us by revelation. Wow! Revelation was always meant to launch us into deeper experiences with God! So let's all take a deep breath and let out a big shout to our amazing Father--YEAH Father, Jesus, Holy Ghost! You're incredible! I love You so much! Thank You for all that You've done for us, even though we deserved the opposite!

Not Just a Mansion But All Things

I think that a big part of why so many have not understood these things before is due to the false understandings that have spread through the church. One of the biggest ones in this regard is based off of a Scripture found in John 14.

John 14:2:

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

Many have thought that Jesus' death on the cross was only good enough to forgive us of our sins, save us from hell, get us into heaven, and reward us with a mansion in heaven. The problem here is that this is the only Scripture in all of the Bible that mentions anything about a mansion, and it is wrongly translated. The word mansions here is the Greek word *mone* and means: a staying, abiding, dwelling, or abode.*⁴ Basically it means a dwelling place, or place to live. In this case the word "mansions" is not even a proper Greek translation, let alone an English one.

Just think about what a house is compared to a mansion in English understanding. Mansions are much bigger than houses. So why would anyone translate a Scripture saying that in the Father's house are many mansions? That makes absolutely no

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sense! It is obvious that someone made a big booboo here, and it has led to many people interpreting the Scriptures wrong. Let's look at a bigger section of this passage while translating the word mansions to dwellings:

John 14:1-4, 6:

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. (2) In My Father’s house are many dwellings; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (4) And where I go you know, and the way you know... (6) Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus isn't saying He's going to His Father to prepare a mansion for us. He's saying that He's going to His Father to make a way for us to live, or dwell, in the very person of God! That's why Jesus says that He will come again and receive us unto HIMSELF! And that no one comes to the Father except through Him. God's home is not even in heaven, remember? Isaiah 57:15 “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy.” God inhabits, or makes His home, in eternity. (And as we went over earlier, every eternity is actually found in Him) Heaven is His throne, or kingdom, earth is His footstool, but eternity is where God has lived from the beginning!

God lived, or dwelt, in eternity before heaven and earth were even created. As we went over earlier heaven and earth were actually created inside of the eternal person of God. And when this heaven and earth are un-created, they will go back into the eternal glory and person of God (Isa. 34:4, Col. 1:16-17). Then God will again create a new heaven, and a new earth out of Himself (Rev. 21:1). We are citizens of heaven, and citizens of earth, but we live eternally in the person of God!

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Acts 17:28:

“for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’”
(boldness added)

Col. 3:3:

“For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
(boldness added)

Psalms 90:1:

“A Prayer of Moses the man of God. Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.” (boldness added)

Psalms 91:1:

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

Psalms 16:5-6:

“O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. (6) The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.” (Boldness added)

Our eternal home, dwelling, and inheritance that Christ prepared for us is the very glory and person of God! Now I know that may shock a lot of people, but it's true! We will also dwell in heaven/the New Jerusalem as well, but God is, and will always be our greatest dwelling place! Remember God is Spirit and those who live in Him must also be spirit. We are spiritual sons and daughters of God who live inside of the very person and Spirit of God. Jesus made a way for us to live in God forever, not just a created building. Everywhere else like heaven, earth, and the New Jerusalem are our lesser “dwelling places” compared to living in God.

For further proof that God is our dwelling let's look at the only other verse that has the Greek word *mone* in it. And

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wouldn't you know it just so happens that it's in the same chapter as the verses we just went over from John 14.

John 14:23:

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him.’”

The word “home” in this Scripture is the Greek word *mone*. Why didn't they translate this one as “mansions”, especially since it's in the same chapter? Because it would obviously not make any sense. Jesus is saying that if anyone loves Him both He and the Father will come make their home, or dwelling, in him. He is saying that God will live in us, and we will live in Him! That is our greatest reward!

Now I'm not saying that God doesn't also have a mansion for us in heaven, as I believe that there are mansions in heaven. What I am saying is that there are many Scriptures that clearly declare that God has given us all things, not just a mansion, that He is our greatest reward, and that even if we do have a mansion, it's just as much yours as it is mine. Which means that having a mansion is tiddly winks compared to the awesomeness of having all things in Christ! For even more proof let's see what God says in Revelation after creating the new heaven and new earth:

Rev. 21:6-7:

“And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of life freely to him who thirsts. (7) He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.’”

Wow! It does not say that he who overcomes will only receive a mansion, and dwell in heaven. It says that he who overcomes shall inherit ALL THINGS! And that the requirement for this reward is to be a son/daughter of God, and overcome (meaning don't fall away from Him)! Alls we have to do is receive the unconditional, highest goodwill seeking love of God, that compelled Jesus to die for us on the cross, which also makes us

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children of God, and we will inherit all things! Once again, it's the irresistibly good news!

I think part of the reason why it may be challenging for some to understand these things is because of the extreme contrast between spiritual realities and earthly realities. Romans 8:17 says that we are heirs of God. Inheritances on the earth come from parents who pass on, leaving their earthly possessions to their kids. But in this case, when Jesus died for us He made a way for us to receive a spiritual inheritance of eternal life in the glory of God. Instead of just inheriting created things, we inherited the Creator Himself.

Rom. 8:17 NIV:

*“Now if we are children, then we are heirs--**heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”* (Boldness added)

God demonstrated the huge immensity of His love for us by sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners, and on the road to hell!! He demonstrated that He not only loves us unconditionally, but that He always seeks our highest good by then giving us all things as our inheritance in Christ! This is absolutely amazing! Nothing could be greater than to know this love that surpasses knowledge, it is completely inconceivable without Him! Lord help us to experience the height, width, length, depth, and lowliness of Your love for us, that we may be filled with all Your fullness!

We Can Only Love To the Measure We've Been Loved

A huge part of the reason why this is so important is because we can only love to the measure we have first received the love of God towards us.

1 John 4:19:

“We love Him because He first loved us.”

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John 15:9-12:

‘As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

(10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

(11) These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

All of the words for love here are the Greek word “agape,” or “agapao” which are the main Greek words used for the love of God (As we went over earlier the Greek meaning hardly scratches the surface to the full definition of God’s love). These Scriptures are saying that we can only love God and others with His love. It’s also saying that we can only do this by first receiving the love of God towards us, and then abiding in it continually.

Love is not just an event, or an action, it is the very nature of everything that God is. We can only abide in the measure of Christ’s love that we have first received for ourselves. Then we can only love God and others, with the measure of Christ’s love that we have abiding in us. We cannot give what we don’t have. We cannot love beyond how much we’ve been loved by God.

So when people mistakenly think that God’s unconditional love was only great enough to get us into heaven, and reward us with a mansion, these lies can actually prevent us from receiving the full manifestations of God’s love towards us. Hence one of the main reasons why the church is not walking in very much of God’s love compared to what we could be. It is by believing and knowing the love of God through personal experience, that we then have His love to give away! When we realize that God has given us all things that are in His love already, we will realize that the amount of God’s love that we can experience now is limitless.

John 3:34 NIV:

‘For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.”

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The only limitations we have are the ones that are in our hearts! In other words, what's stopping us from walking in our inheritance now is the wrong mindsets in our souls that are trying to make us reject our inheritance through unbelief. As well as the need for greater revelation of the knowledge of God that will enable us to access what is already freely ours. Right now we have access to all of the divine attributes, knowledge, glory, and love of God in Christ! But we will only manifest the measure of His love that has been revealed to us. Through understanding these truths we will then have greater faith and expectation for God to manifest greater grace in and through our lives. As we saw earlier all things pertaining to His life and godliness are accessed by the knowledge of Him. When we know that we have access to all of God, and not just a little, this will cause us to access so much more of Him than ever before!

This is also certainly a huge process, but the more knowledge we have of our inheritance in God, the more we will access what is rightfully ours through the cross of Jesus! Which means that if there's any area of our lives where we see lack, or things contrary to the will of God, it's not God's fault. His extremely extravagant love has given us all things, now we need to learn how to manifest what we already have so that His will can be accomplished in and through our lives.

Mark 9:23:

“Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’”

Notice how this does not say, “All things are possible to him who doubts and rejects his inheritance.” Or “All things are possible for God to do, but He can only do a few things through those who believe.” No! It says all things are possible for God to do through anyone who believes! Jesus could not make that statement unless we had access to ALL of the inheritance of God. If we only had access to some, then only some things would be possible for God to do through us now. But Jesus said that all things are possible now, because we have access to all the glorious

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riches of God's nature right now! We have to believe the word of God in order to receive the manifestation of His promises in our lives today!

By understanding that God loves us so much that He freely gave us the greatest reward He possibly could, while we were still sinners, this enables us to love others with the same kind of love that has been shown to us. See in the Old Testament the two greatest commands were to love God and to love your neighbor.

Luke 10:37:

"So he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind," and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"

But in the New Testament Jesus raised the standard immensely:

John 13:34:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you that you also love one another. (35) By this all will know you are My disciples if you have love for one another."

Notice how He says "A new commandment I give to you." This is a new revelation of a greater standard that God has given to us. Under the old covenant people were not born again, heirs of God, filled with His love, and free from the sin nature. So loving God with all their heart, and loving their neighbor as themselves was the best they could do. Have you read the Old Testament? That's why it was eye for eye, tooth for tooth, and destroy your enemies. It was based off of law, conditional love, and works of self-righteousness. In many ways God didn't require much compared to His perfect standard of righteousness, and yet still no one could even fulfill that.

Jesus came to abolish that old system, and fulfill the law in Himself! He knew that the cross would change everything. When He died on the cross He gave us a new nature that is filled with His love, and set us free from the old nature. Even though He set us free from the old law, He has now given us a much

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higher standard of love and righteousness than what the law did. In the OT it was wrong to commit adultery. In the NT if you even think about adultery you've already done it. In the OT you can love your friends and hate your enemies. In the NT you're supposed to love them both equally, unconditionally, and seek their highest good at all times! In the OT you could love your neighbor as yourself (which doesn't mean much if you don't love yourself very much). In the NT Jesus says to love one another just as He has loved us. In other words to love other people as much as God loves them! This is a huge difference!

In fact did you know that the majority of references to the word "love" in the NT is the Greek word *agape*, meaning the very love of God Himself? Whether the Scripture is speaking about God's love towards us, our love towards God, or our love towards each other it is constantly using the words "agape," or "agapao" (which is the verb or action tense of the word "agape," meaning love in action). God's not into us living in the conditional, self-centered, seeking our own best even at the expense of others kind of love. That kind of false love is from the sin nature! He wants us to be living in the unconditional, selfless, seeking everyone's best even at our own expense kind of love! Which is the only kind of love that is found in God! The only way we can do this though, is by first receiving His love towards us! By realizing that Christ died for us so that we could be forgiven, set free from sin, one with God, inheritors of all things, and conformed into His likeness, we now have more than enough reason to want to love others in the same ways.

It's time for us to get rid of the selfish, conditional love in the body of Christ! Instead we need to be filled with the experiential knowledge of our Father's unconditional love that seeks our highest good! Simply understanding concepts won't do. We must experience His love that surpasses head knowledge. It is only as we experience the depths of Christ's love for us that we will then have His love abiding in us. Knowledge without love puffs up, but the knowledge of God's love builds us up into the image and nature of Christ!

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This is the key to the world being transformed: LOVE! Nothing else will do. Jesus said that all will know we are His disciples if we walk in His love. That includes unbelievers! That also means walking in all the attributes of His love, like: wisdom, knowledge, power, faith, healing, joy, peace, faithfulness, holiness, infiniteness, and more! The world will never see Jesus in us, unless we first receive the nature of His love into our own lives. Doctrines and theologies should always bring us into a greater manifestation of His love. Otherwise they are a waste of time, or even worse a source of pride. I hope that these truths stir up your hunger to experience God's love for you more. That is really what we need my brothers and sisters. Without the love of God in our lives we are helpless to do anything! Even Jesus said He could do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do (John 5:19-20). We can only love if we first see the love of the Father manifesting in and through us.

Now there are multiple dimensions to what I'm about to share, but the overall focus is that the greatest solution to every problem we see in the church today is that we NEED more of God's love manifesting in our lives. It is very obvious I think to anyone that the family of God is in great need of help right now. There are so many denominational, relational, and doctrinal divisions in the church right now. Many have separated themselves into little spiritual "clicks," and have distanced themselves from the rest of the body for a variety of reasons. Many people are struggling daily to hang on, and many leaders have fallen into various forms of sin. The world around us is growing more and more wicked. And many of the ones who God put on the earth to change things are instead hiding, trying to hang out until Jesus "raptures" them out of here.

What a bunch of sissy-juice and selfishness! We need to awaken to our destinies as the mighty sons and daughters of the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God who can do anything! We are here to change things, and bring the kingdom of heaven to earth. If the earth isn't full of God's love, and looking much more like heaven, it's because we aren't doing what Jesus

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commanded us to. He told us to pray “Your kingdom come, your will be done On earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). He didn’t just want us to pray that to make ourselves feel good. Jesus was saying that God wants the earth to look like heaven, and it’s our job to partner with Him to see it happen.

Matt. 16:19:

“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Luke 12:32:

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

Luke 17:21b:

“For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

God didn’t just give us Himself, but it was also His good pleasure to give us all of His kingdom! We have access to this kingdom now, so that we can release it now. Since all of the kingdom of heaven was created from the nature of God’s love, love is the greatest display of the kingdom of God. It is the love of God that releases His kingdom. The more we abide in His love, the more of His kingdom we’ll see manifesting around us! In order for us to manifest God’s kingdom the way He wants us to, we need to first know His love towards us as His sons and daughters.

There are also many really amazing things that God is doing among the nations, and in the body of Christ as well. Many are beginning to rise up in the glory of God like never before! The kingdom of heaven is being advanced, and testimonies of God’s supernatural activity are sweeping the globe! I am so thankful for this, and for the much greater glory that is coming. God is beginning to pour out His Spirit like never before! These are amazing times we are living in. In order for this revival to bear lasting fruit though we need to understand the revelations

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of His love, glory, and kingdom. Many past revivals started off powerfully, but eventually fizzled out. People were dependent upon the corporate manifestation of God, but didn't learn how to abide in His glory continually. So when that corporate manifestation was gone, the level of glory also began to decrease.

The only time Jesus went without experiencing the love of the Father was possibly for a brief moment on the cross (and even then I still hardly understand the depth of what it means when Jesus said that the Father had forsaken Him Matt. 27:46). Other than that one moment Jesus has always, ceaselessly, and immensely been experiencing the love of the Father! He now experiences that in complete fullness, as being God. His sacrifice on the cross removed all separation between us and God, so that we would never have to go a moment without experiencing God's love. Since we were created in His likeness we should always, ceaselessly, and increasingly be experiencing His love for us! The Bible says that we go from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18). That means we go from love to love! We should always be increasing in the height, width, length, depth and lowliness of His love until we are filled with all His fullness (Eph. 3:18-19)!

Changing Foundations

When I first began to realize that all of God's attributes are found in His love, I also began to realize that this called for major change in my own life. From now on I would have to learn to do everything out of love. No longer would I be able to justify doing things for any other motive than love. I also realized that there are many reasons why people do things that they're not supposed to. Many are trying to work for God's love and rewards, instead of working from His love that already rewarded us with all things!

There are many wrong mindsets and ideas of eternity in the body that base our greatest rewards off of our works for God, instead of what Christ worked for us. I hope this is clear in your mind by now: **THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO EARN WHAT GOD HAS FREELY GIVEN US THROUGH HIS**

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UNCONDITIONAL LOVE! Sure there are rewards of authority (2 Tim. 2:12), and other small things for our obedience to God on the earth. But these could never compare to the unbeatable inheritance that God has freely given us through the cross! Not of works, lest any man should boast! God shows no favoritism to any of His children for He loves us all equally, and He demonstrated that through the cross of Jesus. He loves the sinner as much as He loves the saint who's led 50 million people to Him! It was the sacrifice of Christ that has freely given us all things in Him, so having authority or a bigger mansion in heaven is tiddly winks compared to what we've already received by grace!

Far too many people have allowed the earthly thinking of having to work for everything we own to infect their view of eternity with performance and orphan-like thinking. If you think that you have to work for your eternal inheritance in God, then you probably won't get very far, and you'll feel very limited in what you can accomplish with God now. This kind of thinking frustrates the grace of God, and can actually keep us from walking in greater glories. Jesus said all things are possible to him who believes, and He means now! We need to stop loving others just so that we can get a better eternal reward (like more trinkets in your mansion), and start loving simply because we've received the greatest gift we could possibly receive, and want others to share in that same inheritance with us!

When it comes to receiving a reward for the works God does through us on earth, I think one of the greatest rewards we could receive is to see more people in His kingdom, sharing the eternal inheritance of our Father's love with us! I would rather lay down my life out of love for others to see more people get saved than have 100 thrones to sit on, or 100 mansions in heaven. That's what true unconditional love is. Christ gave up the form of God, to take on the form of man and die for us on the cross. He selflessly sacrificed His life for us so that He could share the full inheritance of His love and glory with us! Now we get to show that same unconditional love towards everyone else around us. It is deception to think that we need anything more than that to

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motivate us to selflessly love others. There is nothing greater God could give us than Himself, so let's live a life worthy of what God has done for us by sharing His incredible love with others!

His Attributes Are Ours

These revelations also change the foundation of our identity in Christ. Our identity is now a spiritual child of God that bears the nature of our Father's love, and is an heir of all things in Him! Since all of God's attributes are found in His love, that means we have every attribute of God available to manifest through us, and a measure of every attribute already abiding in us. This really changed my thinking around because I used to think that only certain people really carried God's joy, others would be more peaceful, some funny, some bold, some wise, some anointed, etc. This is certainly not true. If you have the love of God in you, then every other attribute is present inside of His love! What's stopping us from walking in these attributes are lies, the need for greater revelation of truth, and/or our unwillingness to believe the truth. The more we meditate on God's attributes, the more we will become like Him in those ways. We were created to be like Jesus, and Scripture declares this over and over again.

1 John 2:6 NIV:

"Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."

John 14:12:

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

1 John 4:17:

"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."

Heb. 12:2 NIV:

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“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

We were created to be like God, not like man. Jesus became like us so we could become like Him! It is His attributes we are to live by that then empower us with His life. The more attributes of His love we have manifesting in us, the more His thoughts, desires/emotions, motives, words, works, and more will flow through us continually. These attributes are the compelling force behind everything that we are and do.

1 Thess. 2:13:

“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

2 Cor. 5:14:

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died.”

His word and attributes work effectively in us who believe, compelling us to love others! The attributes of God continue to produce the manifestations of God, as a seed would continue to grow in the ground once planted. The more they grow, the more we are filled with His love and compelled to live a life of love! We were created to abide in all the different attributes of His love ceaselessly, continually, and even infinitely just like Him. The more we do so the more we will be compelled to love God and others. Wow! Isn't that great news?!

Now to what degree can we attain in God, and how full of His attributes are we now? These are huge questions, and unfortunately like some of the other questions earlier, too deep to cover in depth for now. Instead I'll leave you with some Scriptures and a few more points to chew on in your own time with the Lord:

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Col. 2:9-10 NIV:

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, (10) and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.” (Boldness added)

Ephesians 4:11-16:

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, (13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (14) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (15) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- (16) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” (boldness added)

Ephesians 3:17-19:

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (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.” (boldness added)

1 Cor. 13:12 NIV:

“Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” (Boldness added)

What in God's holy love are these Scriptures declaring to us? What is Paul saying about us being filled with all the fullness of God? Has he lost his mind, or is he speaking from the mind

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of Christ? I think God has much greater things in store for us than what many have ever even thought possible, let alone been willing to begin to believe for themselves now.

Further Reading:

Heaven Awaits the Bride by Anne Rountree

Glory Rising by Jeff Jansen

Chapter 9

Who We are in His Love

The Joy of Love

Love is Joyful! 1 Cor. 13:6 NIV “Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.” Love is a joy in God. Have you ever noticed how when someone is in love, they could be doing something simple like cleaning the dishes, but feel so giddy and glad inside? That’s like the love of God, but WAY more full of joy!

Psalm 16:11:

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

What do the path of life, the fullness of joy, and pleasures forevermore all have in common? They’re all part of the same package found in love! His love is full of joy, wonderful in life, and extreme in pleasure! 1 Cor. 13:6 says that love rejoices in the truth. Joy is not just an emotion, as some have mistakenly thought. It is an eternal attribute of God’s love that helps produce thoughts, desires/emotions, motives, words, ways, works, and more! And as we can see here it also combines with the many other attributes of God found in His love, such as pleasure, truth, and more.

Joy is not just an emotion, it is a way of living and being. God is joy, and we are becoming joyful like Him. Joy is also a way of thinking. Two people can go through the same circumstances,

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and one has joy, but the other doesn't. Why? Because one is thinking from a joyful perspective, which manifests the emotion of joy, giving them motives of joy, to do joyful works. The other isn't thinking from a joyful perspective, so they aren't manifesting joy. The revelations of His love and joy, can cause us to be joyful in any circumstance.

Phil. 4:4:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"

A friend of mine named Kristina had a home group at her house where they would laugh and release the joy of God over their circumstances to help release God's breakthrough into those situations as a form of spiritual warfare. Since God is so much bigger than the devil, He literally laughs at the devil's weak attempts to try to bring harm to His children. Then after laughing He releases His solution to stop/destroy the works of the enemy. By activating our faith in realizing that God is so much bigger than any circumstances that might come against us, and partnering with Him to release joy over those circumstances, we can begin to release God's victory through His joy! Through this simple activation of releasing the joy of the Lord into circumstances, Kristina saw some incredible testimonies of breakthrough come into people's lives. Here are a few of many testimonies from her home group:

"In the laugh out loud home group, I would share about how laughter is good medicine, but it's also spiritual warfare. The bible says in Psalms 2:4 God sits in heaven and laughs at the plans of the enemy. So one day we had everyone write down all their problems on a small piece of paper; whatever we needed God to move on and bring breakthrough in. After they had written everything down, we folded the pieces of paper up. I had them pass the paper to the person next to them, and told them to start laughing and releasing God's joy over the piece of paper as if it were their own problems. So people were laughing, stomping on the pieces of paper, and overflowing in joy in expectation of what God was releasing into these situations.

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The joy was contagious! And it was also so easy. After laughing nothing seemed to happen right then, but within just a few days the praise reports started to come. Someone had wrote down that they needed their tuition paid, which was \$1310.00. About 4 days later, someone anonymously paid the exact amount that they needed (No one looked at the things written on the papers, so they wouldn't have known that she had written that exact amount on the paper). The person who's tuition got paid off was thinking, "Man I should have wrote down more than that." haha.

During one of these times a girl who had depression for 4 years, and hadn't written it down on the paper, got instantly delivered of depression and started laughing with joy.

Another time a lady who came to the home group had really bad eczema on her skin. So they started laughing and releasing God's joy over her skin, and the lady said she could feel something supernatural happening to her hands. Over the following days her skin would get moist, and started progressively healing. Not too long later, her skin was completely healed! Even the places where there were scars on her hands from the eczema were completely restored by the joyful power of God's love! Glory to God!

Another time a couple came in and were overtaken by joy. The husband really got overtaken with God's joy, and said that he laughed more that night than he had in 45 years. One of the situations that he was laughing was over was that his dad and uncle (who were brothers and pastors) had not really communicated with each other in over 20 years. After taking the tool of joy that he learned that night he continued to laugh over the situation, and within about a few weeks his whole family was restored!"

Praise God!! Laughter is not just good medicine, but it is also a powerful weapon of warfare to destroy the works of the enemy! These are just a few of many outrageous, and life-transforming testimonies that happened as a result of simply laughing and releasing God's joy into different situations, many

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of which had not seen breakthrough in a long time. God truly uses the simple/foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and even the smallest bit of His joy is more powerful than all the power of the enemy!

Scriptures of Joy

Now to demonstrate a good number of the things we've gone over so far I'm going to share a series of Scriptures concerning God's joy that will help prove even further that these aren't just my good ideas, but are actually the truths of God. There are many other attributes that you can go over on your own and find similar examples to in Scripture. Realistically though, when considering all the attributes of God, there are many more attributes that you simply have to depend on the Spirit of God to know and understand. So have fun with both! 😊

Phil. 1:7:

"For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother."

Here it says that joy and consolation were experienced in love.

Rom. 14:17:

"for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Joy is found in the Spirit.

2 Cor. 7:13:

"Therefore we have been comforted in your comfort. And we rejoiced exceedingly more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all."

Joy is found in our spirit.

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Psalms 35:9:

“And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord; It shall rejoice in His salvation.”

Joy can be found in our soul.

Psalms 63:5:

“My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.”

Joy can manifest in and through our bodies as well, causing our lips to praise with joy!

Prov. 14:10:

“The heart knows its own bitterness, And a stranger does not share its joy.”

Joy is experienced in the heart.

Phil. 2:1-2:

“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, (2) fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

Joy is experienced in the mind of Christ that He gave us, which is a mind of love.

Rom. 15:32:

“that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.”

Joy is experienced in the will of God. Which means that joy, like every other attribute of God, not only helps make up the heart, mind, and will of God; but it also forms these things in us as well (our heart, mind, and will in God).

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Psalm 63:7 NLT:

“I think how much you have helped me; I sing for joy in the shadow of your protecting wings.”

His thoughts cause us to be joyful.

2 Tim. 1:4:

“greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy,”

His joy brings forth desires and emotions of joy.

Deut. 28:47:

“Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,”

His joy also can bring forth motivations in our hearts to serve God and do His works.

Matt. 13:44:

““Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Joy can help you to value things according to God's value systems, even to the point of surrendering all to follow Him.

Prov. 15:23:

“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”

Joy brings forth joyful words, which then also impart the attributes of joy as well!

Job 8:19:

“Behold, this is the joy of His way, And out of the earth others will grow.”

His joy manifests in different ways...

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2 Cor. 1:24:

“Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.”

To bring forth the many works of joy! Which is thoughts, desires, motives, values, words, ways, and works of joy! But wait there's more:

John 15:11:

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

The joy that we possess is the very of joy of Jesus Himself, and nothing less than that! You can't get any more joyful than Jesus, so to have His joy explains why He says our joy will be full!

1 Thess. 2:20:

“For you are our glory and joy.”

Joy is something that we are, and are becoming transformed into in Christ.

Psalms 149:5:

“Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds.”

Yes we are joy-filled saints of His glory and love, and no longer sinners!

Isa. 58:14 NIV:

“then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.” The mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Joy is part of the unsurpassable inheritance that we have in God.

Prov. 2:10 NLT:

“Wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy.”

That inheritance of joy can be accessed by the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of God.

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Col. 1:11:

“strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Rom. 15:13:

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Since all of God’s attributes are unified and found in love, joy combines with all the other attributes of love to help fulfill all the purposes of God! Halleluiah! Isn’t that awesome?! Glory to God for His indescribably great, joyful, and extravagant love!

The Peace of Love

Love is Peaceful. Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isa.9:6). Remember from earlier that love “is not easily angered” (1 Cor. 13:5), which means that love is peaceful. This is another attribute that has often been mistaken as only being an emotion. Part of the reason why this has happened is due to the false knowledge of the scientific/psychological world telling people that our thoughts are separate from our emotions, and many referring to peace as an emotion. God doesn’t separate the two. They are both manifested through the attributes of God. It is the attributes of God’s love that manifest His thoughts, desires (emotions), motives, words, ways, and works; not the brain. Also I think many have simply not correctly understood the attributes and nature of God due to “lack of knowledge” in these things. I hope that the reality of these things encourages you in the rich understanding of our Father’s love! At the same time I hope that these revelations also help people realize how great the need is for the people of God to rightly understand the realities of God according to His mind, and not according to what other people have said about Him. I hope these things will stir you up to seek to know God for yourself like never before!

(By the way, whenever I say that we have a “lack of knowledge,” what I mean is that we as the children of God have

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been choosing not to access the overwhelming inheritance of all things in Christ like we could/should be. Thus resulting in there being a massive need for much greater manifestations of the knowledge of God's glory in our lives, and in the earth. So when I say "lack of knowledge," what I also mean is that we simply "need to access the inheritance of God in much greater ways than we ever have before.")

It is the revelations of God's love toward us that brings peace into our hearts. His peace can also lead us into deeper revelations of who He is. Peace is not just a feeling, it is a way of thinking. Someone who is at peace has continual peaceful thoughts, lives in peaceful emotions, has peaceful motives for doing things, speaks peaceful words, and does things in peaceful ways. Matt. 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God." We have to walk in peace, speak words of peace, and share God's peace in order to be peacemakers.

Phil. 4:6-7:

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

God's peace transcends our current level of understanding, because His love transcends understanding (and surpasses knowledge). This is saying that His peaceful love is an anchor for our souls to trust God even when we don't fully understand Him, or His ways. Even a little revelation of His love towards us can be enough for us to know in our hearts that He will be there for us. Thus giving us the peace that surpasses understanding! Isn't God's peaceful love amazing?!

Love Believes All Things

As we went over earlier, all of faith and believing are found in love. For love "believes all things" (1 Cor. 13:7).

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Gal. 5:7b NLT:

“What is important is faith expressing itself through love.”

We are saved by faith, justified by faith, live by faith, walk by faith, and so much more! It is God’s love that enables us to believe at any and all times, for His love never ceases to believe the truths of God. The greater the revelations we have of God’s love, the more faith we will have to see God manifest in different ways. The less revelations of God’s love we know, the less faith we will see manifesting in our lives.

Mark 9:23:

“Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’”

The more faith we have in love, the more we will see God’s infinite possibilities manifesting in and through our lives. Love is how we grow in every attribute of God, for all of His attributes are found in His love! So if you’re struggling believing God for something, ask Him to reveal the nature of His love and attributes in that area of your life.

Rom. 10:17:

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Remember from earlier that the Word of God is Jesus, and that every attribute of God helps release His infinite living words. So the more we receive the attributes of His love in our lives, the more His words, thoughts, and revelations will bring more faith into our lives! We can grow in faith through the promises of God in Scripture that manifest His attributes/nature, or we can grow in faith from the words/thoughts of God that are released through His attributes directly.

As a side note, I wanted to mention that there has been some wrong beliefs in the church that the Bible is the Word of God (capital “W”), when actually every Scriptural reference that mentions the “Word of God” (capital “W”) in the Bible, is always specifically referring to Jesus. (See John 1:1-3, 1:14; 1 John

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1:1, Rev. 19:13) There is not a single verse in the Bible that calls Scripture, or the Bible itself, the “Word of God” (capital “W”). There is also another wrong belief that has been common in the church that whenever the Bible says “the word of God” (lower case “w”), that it is always only referring to the Bible. Once again this is not true. Every time “the word of God” is mentioned in the Bible, it is referring to every single word/truth of God in general, including those that are written in the Bible. John 17:17 “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” The Word/word of God is every revelation of truth that is contained within the person of Jesus. Jesus is Truth, and the Word.

As we went over before, there are infinite infinities worth of revelations, truths, and knowledge of who God is that is expressed through His attributes. Revelation, truth, and knowledge are all manifestations of God’s Word/words. That’s why the Bible says that Jesus is the “Word of God,” because every revelation of Jesus is a revelation of His infinite truths/words. The Bible is our supreme authority as far as a written record of some of the most important foundational revelations of God’s truths/words. It also contains a very small portion of the Word/word of God, or truths of Jesus. But it is very far from being even close to containing all the knowledge, truths, and words of God’s entire person. It is His nature and attributes that produce His infinite thoughts, words, works, etc; and are what established the Bible the way that it is. So learning to receive the attributes and nature of God is what will also enable us to begin to understand His infinite living truths/words! I speak much more in detail about this in the exempted chapters that I talked about earlier, that you can find on my website. I encourage you to check them out if you want to know more of what I mean by these things. I am simply mentioning it now so that hopefully people won’t continue to limit God’s words to only being the Bible, when it is actually so much more than that.

There are many ways to define faith. One of those definitions to me means: to see, but not with perfect clarity. Knowledge means that we can see or know something perfectly clearly. Faith

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is what helps us to believe in something that maybe we aren't absolutely certain of. For instance, when someone starts their car in the morning they have faith that it will actually start. They don't necessarily know for certain, but can have a great amount of confidence to the point of almost being certain of it. The reality though, is that it's possible the car might not start one day (unexpectedly). The same goes for many areas of our lives. There are many things that we can believe, but don't necessarily know for certain. If we knew for certain, then it would no longer be faith, but would instead be knowledge. I'll talk a little bit more about this later, and how to encounter God through our faith.

For right now here's a cool testimony of faith from a mighty man of faith named Smith Wigglesworth:

"One night I was entrusted with a meeting, and I was guarding my position before God. I wanted approval from the Lord. I saw that God wants men full of the Holy Spirit, with divine ability, filled with life, a flaming fire. In the meeting a young man stood up. He was a pitiful object with a face full of sorrow. I said, "What is it, young man?"

He said he was unable to work, and he could scarcely walk. He said, "I am so helpless. I have tuberculosis and a weak heart, and my body is full of pain."

I said, "I will pray for you." I said to the people, "As I pray for this young man, you look at his face and see it change."

As I prayed, his face changed. I said to him, "Go out, run a mile, and come back to the meeting."

He came back and said, "I can now breathe freely."

The meetings were continuing, and I missed him. After a few days, I saw him again in a meeting. I said, "Young man, tell the people what God has done for you."

"Oh," he said, "I have been able to work and make money."

Praise God, this wonderful stream of salvation never runs dry. You can take a drink; it is close to you. It is a river that is running deep, and there is plenty for all."^{*5}

Wow! Great faith in Jesus will always bring great results! Lord help us to walk in Your faith! I highly encourage you to

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learn more about the incredible life of Smith Wigglesworth, who was also known as “the apostle of faith.” Smith saw a number of people raised from the dead by the power of God, and 1,000’s healed, saved and/or delivered! His life and teachings have been a great source of wisdom, inspiration, and faith to me.

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In this section I want to share a little bit more about who we are as sons and daughters of our Father’s love, and how to walk in His love continually.

1 Pet. 2:9 NIV:

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

Eph. 5:8:

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.”

1 John 5:10:

“He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.”

So we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and are to live in the light of the Lord! Then in Ephesians it goes even further to say that we now are light in the Lord. Wow! We don’t just walk in God’s light, but in Him we become God’s light! That’s amazing! Then in 1 John it says that when we walk in love, we walk in His light, and there is no cause for us to stumble. So in order for us to stay pure, holy, and in the light of God, we need to walk in the light of His love! His love is full of light, glory, power, honor, majesty, faithfulness, peace, joy, greatness, favor, delight, wisdom, humor, understanding, childlikeness, and every other attribute of His nature. Since we have been given the very nature of God, that means that every single one of these attributes now abides in us! Praise God! And not only that, but they are part

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of who we are. We are joy, peace, patience, mercy, light, honor, favor, and more in the Lord. We don't just have the attributes of God in us, we are, and are becoming a living manifestation of the attributes of His love!

2 Cor. 5:21:

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

1 Pet. 1:15-16:

"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

We are not just to live righteously in God, we are the righteousness of God in Christ! We are not just supposed to do holy works, but we are to be holiness in the Lord. It is His love that causes us to bear the image and likeness of our Father. We were born again into oneness with God through Christ, and are now to live in oneness with Him in all things. When people see us they should see a living representation of Christ standing in front of them. Yes we are certainly all growing up into that image, but at the same time we also have such an incredible amount of Christ in us already.

Col. 2:9-10 NIV:

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, (10) and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

Now I know I mentioned this Scripture earlier as being to massive to go over right now, but I do want to touch on it just a little bit to help us understand the incredibleness of what Christ has already done for us to make us sons and daughters of God. Here it says that in Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead, and we have been given (past tense) FULLNESS in Him! Wow! That's incredible! Our spiritual man right now is full of God! How full? So full that there's no room for anything else but God! Haha. That's why our spiritual man can never sin, it is

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already full of God. Now this Scripture, like many others that we've gone over so far, means so much more than what we're covering here, but I think it's important to at least know that our spiritual man is filled with the nature of God. Our spiritual man is full of God, but the soul of many believers (including myself) is still beginning to understand what we already have abiding in our spiritual man.

Remember earlier that in 2 Pet. 1:3-4 it says we have all things pertaining to life and godliness, and that it is accessed through the knowledge of God? Through the work of the cross we can access the overwhelming abundance of Christ's glory now, to manifest His attributes of love in our lives today. We don't have to wait until the next age! (Remember from earlier that 1 John 5:11-13 says that we have the eternal life of God abiding in us now) As we continue to abide in Christ, the ceaseless measures of His love will continue to flow through us in ever increasing measures. We were not created to just go to God, get filled up with a tiny bit of glory, and then go leak it wherever we go until we're empty again. We were created to be ceaselessly flowing rivers of the eternal life and love of God!

John 7:38:

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Leaking is good, but flowing is much better. A river flows water ceaselessly, as long as it has a continual supply of water. In Christ we have a never-endingly full supply of glorious love available to flow through us at all times. We were created to ceaselessly flow, not just leak. Leaking implies that we don't have a ceaseless supply of love flowing in us, and that there are cracks, or holes, that we are leaking this love out from. God lives in us, and wants to flow His glorious love through us at all times! What keeps this from happening is when we stop abiding in His nature of love.

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John 15:1-12:

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (3) You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (4) Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. (5) I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (6) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (8) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (9) As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. (11) These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

This is another passage that helps demonstrate that everything that God is, is love. Jesus is talking about abiding in Him in order to bear fruit. Without abiding in Christ we cannot bear any fruit at all, and are in danger of falling from the vine. However, if we do abide in Christ, we will bear much fruit and bring great glory to God. Then Jesus says to abide in what? His love! He says that the same love that the Father has loved Him with, so has He also loved us with! Wow! He then goes on to say to abide in His love, and to keep His commandments. To abide in Christ is to abide in love! A branch doesn’t ever stop bearing fruit unless it stops abiding in the vine; neither does a river ever stop flowing as long as it is connected to the source of it’s flow. We are living, walking, breathing, and talking rivers of the eternal attributes of God’s love!

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God's love will ceaselessly manifest the attributes, thoughts, desires, motives, values, words, ways, and works of His love in and through our lives as we abide in Him. Which means that if there is ever a time where we're not experiencing God's love in these things, it's because we're choosing not to abide in Him. God created us to be ceaseless manifestations of all of the eternal attributes of His love. Which means that we should always be manifesting His love in various forms. Now I know this may seem challenging to understand, or to walk in, but the more we grow in love the easier it will be to do so. It's so much easier to walk in God's love than we think!

Walking in His Mind

There are some really amazing things that began to happen to me as the Lord began to reveal to me that we are one with Him, have His mind, and have access to all things in Him. One of those things is that I began to realize how easy it is to think with His mind. I realized that since we are free from sin, as long as we abide in His nature/Spirit continually, we will also be continually receiving His thoughts/revelations into our being. The Lord began to show me that everywhere we go, and in everything we do, as long as we stay abiding in His Spirit, we will constantly be receiving His thoughts, desires, motives, words, ways, and works in and through our being! How awesome is that! Through putting these revelations into practice I began feeling so much more connected to God throughout the day. I no longer felt that I needed to always be worshipping God to try to get Him to come down from heaven and fill me up for the day. Instead I began realizing that the greatest glory of God is within me, and that He is with me everywhere I go! The Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit live in us, and have made us one with them!!! Wow!

These truths helped me to experience His glory like never before! I began to get such an increase of revelation on a regular basis. Things really began to change in MAJOR ways. No longer did I need to spend hours "getting into the presence of God to get

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filled up,” because God’s presence is already in me, and is with me wherever I go. I also began hearing God speak to me much more often, and even more clearly. I also began realizing that every thought that we think in the Spirit of God, is from Him! Meaning that I would be doing simple, every day things, while abiding in Him, and would be receiving revelations/thoughts from the mind of God. I would even be doing regular household chores, and receiving life-transforming revelations from the mind of God while doing so. Cleaning the dishes is so much more fun when you’re receiving glorious downloads and revelations of the mysteries of God! Ha ha. And this should be happening to all of us, throughout the day, and all the time. My God You’re amazing!

I would often wake up in the mornings after these things started happening, and I wouldn’t want to get out of bed sometimes for hours, because as soon as I woke up my mind would begin to be flooded with revelations from God as His love and glory would saturate my being. I would lay there worshipping, praising, enjoying, and being awed at how wonderful He is, as He was encountering me with His love. I mean what a great way to start the day! And one of the best parts about this is that it is for everyone, including you!

Getting revelation from God is as easy as thinking. In fact, every good thought that we have comes from God! Since God is the source of all good things, including all good thoughts, even the most simplest of good thoughts comes from the attributes of His nature. Thinking the good thoughts of God can be as simple as thoughts like: “I need to go pick up my kids from school.” Or, “Man, oatmeal sounds good to eat today.” Or, “Wow, the sky looks really colorful today.”

Thoughts of God can also be deep revelations into the knowledge and understanding of His nature, our identity, the kingdom of God, and more. Many people are thinking so many thoughts already that are from the nature of God, and yet don’t realize that God is the source of their thoughts. We are far more connected to/one with God than we yet realize! Yes we can have thoughts from the other nature too, but I’m not focusing on that

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right now. Too many people already focus too much on “their” negative thoughts, when instead they should be focusing more on learning how to walk in the continually good thoughts of God! (And remember all negative thoughts are no longer yours, but were buried at the cross of Christ, so now you can receive God’s overwhelmingly good thoughts at all times! Glory to God!)

This is also another reason why it’s absolutely absurd for people to say that God stopped speaking, or giving new revelation. Remember that words are spoken thoughts, and thoughts are often words in the form of a thought, so to say God stopped speaking is to say He stopped thinking; which if you believe that you might as well just say God died. Nonsense! We are to continually be receiving His thoughts, words, attributes, glory, and life into our beings at all times! His thoughts are our thoughts, and His ways are our ways!

As a side note I felt it was important to say that all of the truths in this book apply just as much to a son of God’s life, as they do to a daughter of God’s life. God loves all of His children equally, has made us all one with Him, and has given us all the inheritance of all things in Him. There is no more separation between male or female, Jew or Greek, slave or free in Christ. (Gal. 3:28) All you amazing sisters of God out there are just as much created to be like Jesus as the brothers in Christ, and don’t ever let anyone tell you otherwise! And for all those big-headed male-supremacists out there that like to wrongfully twist the Scriptures to suppress women, and treat them as a less than, it’s time for you to repent of such foolishness! God’s nature will never empower a man to be-little women, because God loves us all equally.

If God made man in His image, and then made woman in the image of man, that means that woman is made in the image of God too! (Because man is in the image of God, for woman to be created in man’s image, is to say she’s created in God’s image, duh!) For all good things were created from the nature and image of God! (Rom. 11:36, 1 Cor. 11:12) Not only that, but in Christ we are all equally loved, equally heirs of all things, and equally

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being transformed into His image/likeness. So there's no more separation between us, but instead equality in Christ! And no I'm not going to take a whole chapter to explain that right now (even though I'd like to). You should have enough unconditional love, wisdom, and common sense to be doing so already. And if not, now's a good time for you to change. It's time for both the daughters and sons of God to arise and shine with nature of His love, and share the light of His glory among the nations together, as one family in Christ!!!

His Yoke is Easy

Here is another thing that dramatically changed in my life as I began learning more of what it means to be a son/daughter of God. I began to think much more positive thoughts throughout the day. I realized that it is normal for us to have continually good thoughts from God all the time, that are various manifestations of the different attributes of God. I also started realizing how many of the thoughts I was already thinking were from God, and I just didn't realize it before. Thoughts of compassion, faithfulness, humor, wisdom, knowledge, encouragement, humbleness, righteousness, teaching, and so much more, are already such a great part of people's lives today (And many without knowing it, as I said before that the attributes of God are even found in unbelievers).

Now I don't have time here to get into all the different attributes, but I will say that even thoughts of sorrow, mourning, sadness, anger, and grief can be from the nature of God. God experiences all of these things, and therefore these are not negative thoughts as long as they are from Him. If He's sharing His nature with us, then it is possible for us to experience these things with Him. This should also encourage you to desire to know the attributes of God more, so that you can better discern where your thoughts, desires, motives, etc, are coming from. This is another example of why knowing the nature and attributes of God is so absolutely necessary for us to live rightly in Him.

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Alls we have to do is make sure we're abiding in His nature of love, and every thought can/will be from God. It's as easy as being connected to the vine. Yes it can be quite a process for us to learn to do this continually, but I am convinced that it is so much easier than what we may realize.

Matt. 11:28-30:

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

His spiritual yoke is easy, and His burden is light! In this verse the yoke He's referring to is the teachings that He shares, and the burden is the weight these teachings place on us in obedience to Him. Here it says that His teachings are easy to walk in, and that the burden they place on us is light. Why are they light? Because He is not only the One teaching us, but He is also the one who is manifesting His life in us, which then enables us to live by the same things He is teaching us. He is the One who teaches us, the One who lives in us, and the One who does the work for/with us (Phil. 2:13). Making our yoke very easy to follow, and our burden incredibly light, because He bears it for us! Alls we have to do is agree (Amen), and then choose to remain abiding/obedient in Him. Yes we do act on God's commands, but we cannot obey a single command of God without His nature in us enabling us to do so.

The Christian life was meant to be easy, not hard. What makes it hard is when we choose to carry heavy burdens of false religious, natural, or worldly doctrines that make things more difficult for us. These yokes are not from God, and can make things very difficult for us. That's why Jesus said that all those who are carrying heavy burdens should come to Him, so that He can remove them and replace it with His light and easy burdens. As Christians we will have persecutions, and tribulations (2 Tim. 3:12), but when it comes to obeying God He says that HE makes it easy. Now I don't know about you, but when God says that He

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will make obeying Him easy, I believe what God says. I mean He is God isn't He?

Walking in Him

I hope that this helps you to walk more fully in your God-given identity as a daughter/son of God! It is important to know that there is a "price to pay" to walk more fully in God. Jesus paid the ultimate price on the cross to enable us to become one with Him, heirs of all things, and receive the eternal life of His nature within us. But we still need to do our part.

Gal. 5:16 NIV:

"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

Col. 2:6:

"As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him."

Luke 9:23:

"Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

A major part to all of this is learning how to continually abide in the love and nature of Christ. Since our spiritual man is already one with the Spirit of God, our spiritual man never stops abiding in God. But our soul and body on the other hand, can be a bit resistant at times to following the Spirit of God. This is because of needing to deny wrong mindsets and ways that may still be in our soul. That's why Jesus said deny yourself (old self), pick up your cross daily (where the old man is dead, and the new man is resurrected into His life), and then follow Him. In order for us to follow Christ we must choose to reject the old life, be made new in the attitudes (thoughts) of our mind, and put on the new man who is like God (Eph. 4:22-24).

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As we covered before, the cross is the place of exchange. His good thoughts replace our old bad thoughts, His glorious ways replace the old ways, and His nature of love replaces the old nature. We must learn how to keep our souls surrendered to the Spirit of God, and live from our spirit/new man, so that we can walk in Him continually. Remember you are now a fully righteous spiritual being of love, that is one with the Spirit of God, has a soul, and dwells in a temporary body. You need to walk in the new “you” in order to bear the good fruits of love.

The verse in Colossians 2:6 says that we have received Christ, and now need to walk in Him. Many believers have Christ living inside of them, but they haven’t yet learned how to submit to God’s Spirit, so that they are continually living in Christ. Christ lives in us, and will go with us wherever we go, but only by submitting to Him can we live in His life all the time, and follow Him wherever He wants us to go. We cannot just do whatever we want to and expect to always be manifesting His nature. We must choose to submit to God’s nature, and walk in our spirit/the Spirit, in order to continually abide in Christ.

One of the big keys here is not to get too hung up on needing to “perfectly” abide in God all the time. Remember He’s omnipresent, and all things are in Him, so technically there’s no where you can go and not be “in Him” so to speak. What I am referring to more here is what kind of thoughts, desires, motives, words, and works are you allowing to manifest in your life? And are you choosing to follow the leading of the Spirit of God in you throughout the day, or are you just making your own decisions about things apart from God? Are you constantly trying to get God to follow you, or are you choosing to follow Him where He wants to go? It’s important to invite God into all of our daily activities, as without Him we have no life!

Even just realizing that you are one with God, so He is with you wherever you go, is a great place to start. We should be ever increasing in our consciousness of God, and in the connection/oneness that we have with Him. We will go over more ways to do

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that in the chapters ahead, but for now let's do an activation. And remember it's much easier to abide in God than you think!

Meditation

Phil. 4:8:

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.”

There is a big difference between wrong meditation, and right meditation. The word meditate, or meditation, is found many times in the Bible, and is almost always referring to God's people meditating on the things of God. We can meditate on His words (Psalm 119:148), His works (Psalm 143:5), and even on His attributes/nature as the verse in Philippians says. The wrong kind of meditation (like the eastern Buddhism and such) is where people try to empty their mind of all thoughts, and try to reach a place of complete “stillness,” or “peace.”

True peace is only found in the nature of God, and it His thoughts that can also release His peace. Godly meditation means to fill your mind with the loving, peaceful, awesome, righteous, and glorious thoughts of God! Meaning to allow your mind to be bombarded by the awesome, and ceaseless revelations of the eternal love of God! That's why some translations translate the word “meditate” from Phil 4:8 as “think.” We are to ponder the works, words, and attributes of God, as we allow Him to then fill our mind with the revelations of who He is! This is holy, glorious, and wonderful meditation in God!

Chances are you meditate (or think deeply) about certain things in your life already. So why not take some time now and begin to meditate on some more of the attributes of God's nature. Since you have the mind of Christ I want you to begin to think about different aspects/attributes of God's nature that we may

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have went over already. Expect that as you do so, God will begin to fill your mind with His thoughts. Ask God to give you deeper revelation into those attributes. Also ask Him to reveal attributes of His nature to you that you may not have known were attributes before/never let Him define for you directly. Ask Him to show you what thoughts, motives, words, ways, and works those attributes can help produce. As things begin to pop into your mind, pursue the knowledge of God in those revelations even more. Also ask God about some of the questions you may have had while reading this book, or about some of the revelations we've gone over so far.

A big part of receiving answers to your questions is realizing how easy it is for us to receive those answers from the Spirit of God in us. Part of meditating includes asking questions, considering different angles, comparing what you learn with Scriptures, and most importantly, letting the Holy Spirit lead you into deeper revelations of His truths! So I encourage you to do all of these things, and whatever other things the Lord shares with you to help you receive more revelation from Him. 😊

What we Know we Become

As we've gone over earlier, when we get revelation of the attributes of God, we then also become transformed into the likeness of God in those ways. The more we know God for who He is, the more we will become like Him. We aren't supposed to just do works of love, we are to be the love of God to all who are around us. We aren't supposed to walk in some of God's attributes, we are supposed to walk in all of God's attributes! Every attribute of God is found in His love, so even the smallest measures of His love contain every single attribute of God. And yet it says that our spiritual man is full of God's love! Wow! So there's no excuse for us not to be living representations of the love of God in it's various forms. God has given us His nature. Now He wants us to experientially know Him, so that we become living manifestations of His love, who abide in Him at all times.

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He's not interested in having children that don't know Him, or barely experience any of His love at all. He wants us to be filled with the experiential knowledge of His love at all times, and in endless ways! It's time we start believing these things and walking in them now, so that the world can see the love of God through us!

So many people have doctrines, but have hardly ever experienced God's love for them! Words without love are powerless to change anyone for good. Only the powerful revelations of the living God of love will transform our hearts to be like His. As I said before I used to think that only certain people carried certain attributes of God. There were many attributes of God that I saw others experiencing in great measures, but I didn't experience them much at all. I thought that it was just part of how God made us. My need for greater revelation of the knowledge of God and what it means to be a son of God, caused me to not experience His love very much.

This was also due to having some wrong understanding of these things. When we wrongly perceive/understand the things of God, we will often wrongly receive them as well (or be hindered in receiving the manifestations of God that we should be). When we allow ourselves to agree with lies, we can actually be simultaneously rejecting the manifestations of God that He created us for. If we repent of those agreements, and receive the truths of His love, then we will begin to experience the realities of His love continually, and stop being hindered from experiencing His love in our lives. Jesus came to give us life and life to the full! Meaning that we are continually overwhelmed to the place of overflowing in the many attributes of God's love, in every area of our lives, and at all times! So if we're not experiencing these things, a big part of it is needing to seek God continually, while receiving His love and truths, so that we will grow up into His likeness.

When we rightly understand these realities, we will begin to walk in God's love like never before! (And like we were originally created to) We were all created to be excellent,

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kind, joyful, patient, wise, understanding, revelatory, glorious, magnificent, generous, encouraging, peaceful, just, holy, funny, healing, powerful, and righteous (and so much more!) sons and daughters of the Most High God! We currently are filled with these things in our spiritual man/woman who is united with Christ, but we are also becoming these things through our entire being. God shows favoritism to no man, has given all of us equal access to Himself, and has given us the full inheritance of His love in Christ! We are to be continually transformed into greater and greater manifestations of the love of God!

So there's no more excuses for us to not walk in greater measures of His attributes than ever before. When we wrongly understand the nature of God, and who we are in Christ, we will not live according to God's best for our lives. Not only that, but we could end up living in ways that are contrary to God's will for us. This is part of why many believers are struggling so much in their walks with God. Too many are carrying the heavy yokes of false religious doctrines, instead of walking in the easy and light yoke of His love!

Hopefully these revelations give a little bit better understanding of what the truth really is about these things. There is certainly WAY more to know about all of these things, and there are many more major foundational truths that we have not covered here, but this can at least begin to help us all grow into fuller expressions of the extravagant love of our Father! I'll leave you with these Scriptures and some closing thoughts:

Phil. 2:1-2 NIV:

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness, and compassion, (2) then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."

Notice how it says we are to have the same love, attributes, and even mind that we have received from Christ? We are to walk in whatever we have received from Him, as we continue to abide in the awesomeness of His person. Glory to God!

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So now I have some questions for you to think about (while thinking with the mind of Christ of course, 😊): Does this challenge you to walk more fully in God's love? What does it mean that we have been given fullness in Christ? What does it mean that we have access to all of God's attributes as our inheritance right now? Are there attributes of God's love that you've always wanted to experience, but never thought they were for you? Ask God to reveal how you can live in His love ceaselessly, grow in His love fully, and receive the manifestations of the attributes of His love that you've longed to know!

Further Reading:

Smith Wigglesworth devotional (by whitaker house)

For more from Kristina Waggoner visit:

www.kristinawaggoner.wordpress.com

Chapter 10

More Facets of His Love

God's love is Gracious. His Grace is so amazing and overwhelming!

2 John 1:3:

“Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.”

Notice how it says that God's grace, mercy, and peace will be with us in truth and love. His grace, mercy, and peace are found in all the wonderful truths of His love! I think grace is one of the few attributes that I somewhat understood more in the context of love before realizing that all of God's attributes are found in love. But there are some really important things about God's grace that I didn't know. Many have believed that grace has two main meanings in reference to God: unmerited favor (basically giving something to someone that they don't deserve), or the divinely enabling manifestation of God's life. But the truth is that they are both part of the same attribute, and that both are always manifested at the same time!

Grace is often viewed as being that God gives us the best things we could receive even though we deserved the worst (unmerited favor). It's a step up from mercy because mercy means to relent punishment. Grace doesn't just relent deserved punishment, it also blesses you with the greatest gifts you could receive! (Like the inheritance of God!) Grace is also known as the manifestation of God's life in us. These two definitions of grace

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have been viewed by many as two separate manifestations of grace, that don't always manifest together. Realistically though, this is simply not true. The reason for this is that I think that grace is one of the few attributes of God that we have somewhat understood in the context of unconditional love that seeks our highest good. As we went over earlier mercy isn't just relenting punishment, just as much as grace isn't just unmerited favor, or enabling us with God's life.

As we went over earlier God's life is found in His attributes. His gracious love releases His life. So if grace is ever manifested in any way, so are His life and attributes! Since all of the attributes of God are found in love, anytime God's love manifests, His grace is present in that manifestation. So even when God shows mercy to us, He is also imparting His grace and attributes into our lives (by helping us receive His mercy, and become more merciful like Him).

Remember no attribute of God ever manifests by itself, and they are all found in love. So wherever God's Love manifests though His attributes, every attribute is present, though some maybe less active, inactive, or in other dimensions. Just like the Scripture above, where grace, mercy, and peace were all listed as being in love. So when we understand His attributes we can't understand them completely without considering what happens as they combine with all the other attributes of God's love. Now that's a heavy revy! (big revelation for those not familiar with the term)

By the way this also means that much of the understanding of God's attributes we currently have is far from complete, because many have been attempting to define them by looking at each attribute as separate from all the rest (though not everyone looks at them this way). When actually each attribute can only be fully understood by understanding how it interacts with all the other attributes of God's love! Oops, that's a big mistake! But anyways, that'll have to be explained more in depth another time. For now let's stay focused on grace.

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So grace is not just unmerited favor, it is also the manifesting of the divine life of God's love! Every time His unmerited favor comes, it is released through the attributes of His love that impart His life (or grace) into our lives. These two manifestations of grace are not separate, but are actually always manifested together! Gracious love always seeks our best, wants to give us the best, and won't allow our shortcomings to stop it. I think that this has really helped me to understand why preaching grace is so important. You see, since God's unmerited favor and life are part of the same package, grace is a big part of what we need to overcome sin. Paul says,

Rom. 5:20-21:

“Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, (21) so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

God's gracious love is what helps us defeat sin, reign victoriously, and live righteously in all of the attributes of love! When God sees us in sin, He doesn't want to just show us unmerited favor so we can keep sinning. He gives us unmerited favor to let us know that regardless of any sins committed He is still absolutely infatuated with us, and wants to give us His best! With that unmerited favor also comes the divinely enabling life and attributes of God to then empower us to be victorious over the same sins we just committed. How wonderful is that! God doesn't give us grace as a license to sin, He gives us grace to enable us to win and overcome our sin! Grace becomes “a license to sin,” when we separate God's unmerited favor from His divinely enabling life (and all the rest of His attributes). He gives us unmerited favor to empower us into His life!

Grace becomes a “license to sin” when we wrongly understand what grace really is. See sin operates by doing everything it can to keep us as far away from God as possible. So if we fall short, one of the first things sin wants to do is bring shame, condemnation, guilt, bondage, etc. That way we won't feel

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worthy enough to come to God, or are fearful of Him punishing us. If that happens, then sin has a greater chance at keeping a person in bondage, and leading them into more sin, because God's nature/life is the only thing that can give us the victory over our sins. God understands this, and is so opposite of these things! He's the everlastingly good Father who will never give up on us no matter how many times we slip, and will always be ready to throw out His loving arms to catch us with His grace.

Look at the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. It says that the father ran to his disobedient son, put a new garment and a ring on him, and threw a party with their fatted calf. It's obvious in the parable that the father had been waiting for his son to come back. He was simply waiting for the first opportunity for his son to turn to him, so that he could help him. Somehow I think many believers lose sight of this kind of extravagant love and grace after being saved. Somehow performance, religious mindsets, and striving creep in. Many feel so condemned over one sin sometimes. Meanwhile God responds with such an overwhelming display of unconditional love that seeks the highest good to the disobedient prodigal son who disowned his father, and squandered his inheritance on foolish living. He didn't stop loving us like that now that we're born again, and know that it's wrong to sin!

Remember He loves the sinner as much as He loves the saint: Unconditionally seeking our highest good at ALL times! That's all the more reason for us to depend on His unconditional love that extravagantly showers His grace upon us at all times, and in all things! Whenever we fall short we know that we have His love to fall back on every time, to lift us up, and fill us with greater measures of Himself. Then those measures of grace that we've received can flow like rivers in and through our lives, helping us to continue forward and keep pressing on until we have full victory. That's why Scriptures says:

Heb. 4:16:

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may

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obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

We can come boldly before the throne in the midst of our sin because we know God is ready to cleanse us, impart His love into us, and give us the power to be victorious in Him! And if we fall short again, we can come back for more. The more we have God's attributes of grace manifesting in our lives, the more we will think, feel, speak, and live graciously empowered with His life! We need God's grace, and we need to be gracious to one another. Pray for more grace!

I think too often we find ourselves tripping over the little stuff, when God is so gracious to us. He understands our weaknesses, and He understands that every weakness we have is another opportunity for us to be filled with His love and strength (2 Cor. 12:9). We need to depend on His love for us, and not on our own ability. How gracious we are to others is simply a reflection of how gracious we believe God is towards us. Those who are critical, unrealistic, and hard on themselves, will have very little grace to give to others (or if we are hard or critical towards others we also won't have much grace for ourselves).

We can only love to the measure we've been loved. So if we don't learn to receive God's overwhelming grace in the midst of our weaknesses and shortcomings, we will never fully be able to show that grace to others. So let God be gracious to you, and be gracious towards others. Remember that if someone is struggling with sin one of the last things they need is someone trying to make them feel even more like a sinner, mess up, or failure. What we need is someone to come along side of us, or even under us, and help lift us up into the gracious life of our loving Father so that we can overcome together!

Gal. 6:1-2 NLT:

“Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. (2) Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”

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By the way God doesn't want us to live in our weakness, He wants us to live in His strengths! It's when we think we can do things without Him that we can find ourselves in weakness, because without the nature of God the only other option is sin, or emptiness. We need to depend on God and not on ourselves! Then He can fill us with the attributes of His love and grace that will empower us eternally with His strength!

Love is Holy

Holiness is an attribute of God's love. Holiness in my opinion is another one of many commonly misunderstood attributes of God's nature. Some have mistakenly thought that holiness is the supreme attribute of God, and is even greater than love. Hopefully by now you already know that this is not true. Some people have a stale, religious view of God's holiness. They think holiness means that no one could ever possibly please or approach God, because of how sinful we are, and that includes believers. What a bunch of religious garbage! Holiness by definition means to be separated, or set apart. In the context of God's love, holiness means to be separated/set apart from everything that is not love, to be utterly and totally consumed by everything that is love! God's love is holy!

There is also a common wrong belief that we need to make ourselves more holy before we can ever get closer to God, when it is actually just the opposite. God's love is so fiery and all consuming, that when He pours out His love and Spirit upon us, anything that's implanted in our souls from sin is like throwing hair into the midst of a blazing inferno- toasted in seconds (or less)! Haha. That's what makes a person holy! Our laws, religious ideas, and self-imposed religious practices will never make a person holy. In fact they do the opposite, they allow sin to manifest in our lives through religious strongholds (by trying to be righteous through law based works instead of through Christ), and keep us from coming to the One who can actually make us holy like Him.

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True holiness was attained for us by the cross of Jesus! He gave us a new nature, the nature of His love and holiness. We don't work for God's holiness, we simply live as who we already are in Him, and receive the attributes of His holy love into our being. It is by receiving His love for us that we are made holy. Holiness is not just separating from sin, it's being consumed by the fire of God's love! Fire always falls on sacrifice, so when we give up the things of the world to seek God, His love will always fall upon us. Holiness is a way of living.

Eph. 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.**”*

(boldness added)

1 Pet. 1:15-16:

“But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; (16) for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”

It is God's love that makes us holy. We are holy and blameless before Him in love! Holiness is something that we are, and are becoming in the Lord. The attribute of holiness helps produce thoughts, desires, motives, words, ways, and works of holiness. It is a love that desires to be set apart from everything sinful, and to be overwhelmed with God in every way possible. It is something that we are to be at all times, and in all situations. We are to be holy when helping others, cleaning the house, praying for healing, praising God, making dinner, encountering God, and more. All that we do should be in the holy love of our Father, and nothing should ever be done without it. That's how the angels and saints in heaven live, full of God's holy love all the time!

I know that I have said there are many wrong mindsets in the souls of believers today. I believe the greater problem we have is the need for more of God's love manifesting in our lives. Just a small amount of God's love conquers all sin, a little of God's truth defeats all lies, and a tiny bit of holiness will cause us to be

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completely consumed by the living God! Yet many don't make themselves available enough to deeply know our awesome God. Because of God's undeserved grace, mixed in with the influences of wrong thinking, many somehow think that they can get by while hardly spending any time with God at all.

Well I'm here to tell you that the greatest need we have is to be filled with the love and glory of God! And it is a need, not an accessory, an option, or a luxury. Too many have taken God's gift of life for granted, while hardly ever seeking the Giver of all Life. Many people spend most of their lives working to make money, pay bills, raise a family, and then one day die. What a boring life! Especially when the infinite, all-powerful, all-knowing God of love so greatly desires you every moment of your existence! Many people are more aware of physical and financial needs than they are of their spiritual needs.

Luke 10:38-42:

"Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village, and a certain woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. (39) And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. (40) But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.' (41) And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. (42) But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.'"

Matt. 5:3 NLT:

"God blesses those who realize their need for him, for the kingdom of heaven is given to them."

Notice how Jesus said that only one thing is needed, to sit at His feet and hear His word! In other words, being with God is the greatest and most important need of every single person! Being one with Him is what gives our spirit, soul, and body the necessary love of God needed to live. Without the attributes of

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His love, we could never even exist, let alone function in normal spiritual ways. These precious attributes are far more important for us to have than any amount of earthly things. In fact possessing a single attribute of God is more valuable than all the money in the world! Why then do so many run after earthly possessions, desiring God to bless them with earthly things, and yet barely pursue the priceless and eternal attributes of His infinite love? These are so much more valuable than any earthly things, and are what enable us to know God, and be like Him! That's why Jesus said:

Matt. 6:33:

“But seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

One of my greatest desires throughout this entire book is that every reader would not only realize how amazing, awesome, and powerful the love of God is. But that every person would also realize how much more greatly we NEED more of His love manifesting in our lives today! We are walking in so little of God's love than what He has made available to us. As a result, the world is paying the price for it, and so are we!

We are supposed to be the living representations of God's love to all people, but we have certainly not been doing our best in this area. It's time to arise and shine, and allow the love of God to fill our lives as we seek Him above all! It's time to separate ourselves from the desires of worldly and earthly things, and fix our eyes on the Lover of our souls! Burn the bridges, let go of the hindrances, and throw away the distractions. Anything that would keep us from knowing Him needs to be laid aside, so that the need for God to be revealed to all people can be accomplished. God gave us a mandate to disciple nations, and it's time we start fulfilling that mandate! Not just making disciples in nations, but making disciples of entire nations!

Before we can ever disciple anyone in the love of God though, we first need to experience His love for ourselves. Holiness means separating ourselves from everything that might

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try to prevent us from experientially knowing God's love. Praying 15 minutes a day, and attending church once a week, is not living the life God wants you to. He wants us to be living flames of fire, consumed with the fire of His holiness, setting ablaze all that are around us, and causing the world to be confronted by the realities of God's love! I see way too many of my brothers and sisters in the Lord sacrificing spending time with God to do things that have very little to no eternal value. Or many give up time with God to do things that are good, but not the best.

Jesus said ONE thing is needed, and that is to be with Him! So if our schedule does not reflect a lifestyle that seeks God above all, then our spiritual needs are not being met, and we aren't living the full life that Jesus longs for us to live. So let's give it all to Him, come before His awesome throne of grace, and begin/continue to walk in the full life of His holy love that He called us to!

Love is Just

Isaiah 16:5 NIV:

"In love a throne will be established; in faithfulness a man will sit on it-- one from the house of David-- one who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness."

In God's love is Justice. Justice, or Justness, is an attribute of God that I believe has often been greatly misunderstood. One of the main reasons for this is that many people have looked at God's justice as being separate from His love. Justice outside of love looks like a stone-hearted judge who has no care or concern for the people that he's judging, but simply goes by the orders of the law when assigning punishments to those guilty of breaking the law. We see this much in society today. Judges viewing justice as simply "by the book", instead of as an opportunity to show unconditional love and mercy to people. I believe this is a big part of where people get their views of God's justice.

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The problem with that is that God's justice flows from the foundation of His love, and is only perfectly understood in His unconditional love that always seeks the highest good of another! That's why it says that His throne is established in love, and from that throne of love He will seek justice and righteousness. This is a very different understanding of what it means to be just.

Throughout my Christian walk I have heard way too many Christians condemning non-believers, and fellow believers, in the name of God over the sins they've committed. In fact, sometimes it even seemed like some actually took pleasure in pointing out other people's sins, and making them feel guilty for it. I also remember seeing the news once about a Christian rally against homosexuality, and one guy yelling into the microphone something like "All homosexuals should burn in hell!" Now I would hope that by now you would know that condemning people like that is not at all the heart of God, and is actually one of the worst manifestations of sin there is (Religious sin). This kind of sin completely misrepresents the heart of God, while using His name to do it. It pushes many people away from coming to the Lord because they feel like God hates them, and wants to punish them. Which is exactly what the enemy wants to have happen, and is opposite of how God feels about people.

God doesn't hate anyone. He loves all people unconditionally, and seeks their highest good at all times, even when they are His enemies! What God hates, and wants to destroy, is the manifestations of sin in people. He understands that most people don't realize that they've been blinded by sin, and that's why they continue to sin. So His compassionate love wants to help them be freed from sin, and He knows that His love is the only thing that can change them. He is more than willing to reach out several times to help His beloved people, even if they don't want His help. He knows that even the most wicked people alive were created for His love, and that it's the sin nature that has overtaken and deceived them. He understands that it's only His love that can change them. So by condemning people who are sinning, we can actually push them farther away from the

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solution, instead of helping them receive the love of God which will enable them to change. Only love can defeat evil and enable someone to live righteously, so why would God condemn the very people He loves and wants to save?

John 3:17:

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

One of my friends once said that God told him, “Only perfect love can judge.” Mike Bickle has said, “All of God’s judgments are aimed at whatever stands in the way of love.” God’s judgments against man aren’t necessarily aimed at people, they are aimed at the manifestations of sin in people. Thankfully all of God’s wrath and judgments towards man were satisfied at the cross of Jesus! Jesus took the punishment, so that we would never have to! Like I said, God doesn’t want to destroy the very people He created for His love, but He does want to completely destroy every manifestation of sin from our lives. But what is justice against the sin in our souls; is also the kindness, affection, and gentleness of God towards us. It’s the kindness, or goodness of God’s love that causes us to repent (Rom. 2:4).

In other words, when God is manifesting His goodness and kindness toward us, He can also be simultaneously destroying mindsets and strongholds of sin through His love! That’s how awesome and good our Father is! He loves the sin out of us! Haha. And as He is loving and being gentle with us, His fire is consuming the nature of sin out of us, but we don’t actually suffer from that fire, the sin does. Instead we become more filled with His love and pleasure towards us! Praise God! Now that’s holy transformation in the Lord! (Remember Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, not to destroy us)

Now I’m not saying that no one will suffer God’s wrath, because there will be unbelievers who suffer the wrath of God on the day of judgment. What I am saying is that His children will never suffer His wrath or judgment (punishment or condemnation), we will only know His goodness, gentleness,

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kindness, etc, even if there's sin in our souls. Danny Silk says, "I am un-punishable." We are un-punishable by God as His children, because Jesus took all the punishment for us. We can only be more and more filled with His love as He removes anything from our lives that's not from Him!

I want to go over some Scriptures real quick about judging:

James 4:12 NIV:

"There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?"

1 Cor. 4:3-5:

"But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. (4) For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this, but He who judges me is the Lord. (5) Therefore judge nothing before the time until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God."

I believe there are 2 main kinds of judging in the NT Greek. One kind of judgment means "to make a decision." Another kind of judgment means "to declare guilty, or deserving of punishment; to condemn." We are not to condemn, or to declare punishment against anyone. God is the judge, and is the only one qualified to make those kinds of judgments. We are to judge, or make decisions, about what is sin and what is righteousness. This kind of judging is more like weighing things out to see if something is right or wrong.

We make judgments like this every day whenever we have a list of options, and we make a decision about it that we feel is right. It is normal for us to weigh things out and make decisions about life. It becomes wrong when we then condemn a person, and say that God should punish them, because we've decided that what they did was wrong. We can say that the action was wrong, but when we then see the person as "guilty," and a sinner/sinful hearted, we are stepping over the boundary line.

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We went from judging sin, to judging people. God sees every believer as completely righteous in His sight, and covered by the blood of Jesus, even when we sin. He even sees unbelievers as potentially saved, because Jesus paid for the salvation of all men (Yes unbelievers are sinners until converted to Christ, but what I am saying here is that we should see people for the glorious children of God they were created be, and that they are simply lost/separated from Him).

We have to separate the sin from the person. We can hate the sin, but we must always love the person unconditionally, and seek their highest good at all times. I can hate something that someone does, and them not even be aware that I feel that way, because I love them as a person unconditionally, so what they sense from me is love. Then when God's love hits their hearts, that's what will empower them to be free of the sin issues in their lives! It's His love that removes the sin anyways, so the best thing we can do is love the person so they can be set free! Let the Holy Spirit point out the garbage, while we simply focusing on loving the person. There are times to address people's actions too, but we must learn to do it from a heart of love, and wanting to help the person in order for it to be according to God's heart.

Jesus Brought Salvation into the Pit

There is actually something else that I believe is extremely important to address about God's justice. I remember that for a long time it seemed as though, from what I was taught, that most people that have ever lived will never make it to heaven. This used to compel me to compassion in wanting to see the lost get saved. At the same time, I think it also actually caused me to disconnect with a great part of God's heart. The reason for this is that it is hard to believe that an all-loving, all-powerful, all-knowing God would create man for His love, but then allow most people to go to hell, and burn forever in torment. These are 2 very contradictory beliefs!

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For a long time I thought that it was because of man's choices not to obey God that so many people have died without ever even hearing the gospel. As far as God being good, I thought, "who was I to argue with God, and accuse Him of unrighteousness for letting so many people go to hell?" This was part of the mindset I had, but I am thankful to say that this has now changed. I've now realized that I wasn't actually challenging God, but the wrong mindsets about God that had been taught to me. Now I know that this may be challenging for some people to receive, but I feel it necessary to share the following with you about God's just love that unconditionally seeks our highest good.

According to the Bible during the first 4,000 years of the existence of man, hardly anyone was faithful to God. In fact at one point God had to wipe out almost everyone on the earth except Noah and his family because of how evil they were. Then He chose the Israelites to be His chosen people, but even most of them disobeyed God. Then Jesus died on the cross, and the gospel began being preached around the world. As far as I am aware there has never been a long period of time where there was more than 1/3 of the earth's population that confessed Jesus as Lord, or believed in God. And out of that we don't know how many of those people actually lived what they believed. On top of that there have been many time periods (quite possibly most of the time) where much less than 1/3 of the people believed in God, as in the days of Noah.

Many people believe that because God is just, and has to punish man's sins, that if someone dies without confessing Christ they are sentenced to eternal torment in hell. If this was a true statement that would mean that well over 2/3 of mankind that has lived so far will be tormented for all eternity in burning flames. This does not match the revelation of an all-loving God that can do anything, and only plans the best for us.

I find it very odd that somehow we've allowed ourselves to believe that God doesn't have back up plans. Now I know that the earth was given to man to steward, and that He left it up to us to preach the gospel to the nations, but God knew before He

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created us how many people would turn away from Him. I also know that He is just, but His view of justice is much different from man's view. He is also the One who makes all the rules, and can do whatever He wants. How could we believe that an all loving, powerful, victorious, amazing, eternal, and knowing God would create man to be destroyed and suffer eternally like that? The Bible says:

2 Pet. 3:9:

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Matt. 25:41:

"then he will also say to those on the left hand. 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

God's desire is that not a single person would perish, but that ALL would come to repentance. Hell was originally created for the devil and his angels, not for people. So why would only 1/3 of the fallen angels go to hell, but over 2/3 of mankind? Unfortunately there will be people who go to hell, but I am convinced that it will be much less than 2/3. A huge part of this has to do with understanding the difference between Hades and the eternal lake of fire. Hades is where people go who don't believe in God when they die. Hades is like the lake of fire in that there is flames and suffering, but it is not the place of eternal suffering. The eternal lake of fire/eternal hell is where everyone not found written in the Lamb's book of life will go on the day of judgment (Rev. 20:15). Those who go there will be tormented forever, but the Bible never says that those in Hades have no chance of being rescued. In fact there are multiple verses that say that after Jesus died on the cross, He took the keys of death and Hades from the devil, went into Hades, and preached the gospel to all the people there! Those who accepted Him were then resurrected with Him when He ascended into heaven!

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Rev. 1:18:

“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

Eph. 4:8-9 NIV:

“This is why it says: ‘When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.’ (9) (What does ‘he ascended’ mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?)”

1 Pet. 3:18-20 NIV:

“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, (19) through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison (20) who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.”

1 Pet. 4:6:

“For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.”

First Jesus took the keys to death and Hades back from the devil. Then He went into Hades and preached to all who had ever disobeyed, including those who died from the flood during the days of Noah. Then those who accepted Him, though judged to be dead by man, were made alive by God in spirit, and ascended with Him into the heavenly places. He set the captives free, and led them into their new home! That’s amazing!!!!

Jesus also released all the people that were being held in Abraham’s bosom. Abraham’s bosom was the temporary holding place of those who believed in God while they lived on the earth before Christ came. When He was resurrected He also took them into heaven with Him. Some have read Luke 16:19-31 (where it talks about a man in Hades talking to a man in Abraham’s bosom) thinking that no one can enter Hades. This passage says that no one in Abraham’s bosom could enter Hades, but it never

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said that Jesus could not enter Hades and preach to the people there. Jesus is God and He can do whatever He wants cause He makes all the rules!

This is great news! I mean think about this, all the people that died the first 4,000 years (or more) before Christ who did not believe in God were being tormented in Hades for possibly 1,000's of years. How many of them do you think told Jesus, "Oh no Jesus I don't want to leave this place, I really like the flames and torment." I would think that the great majority of them probably accepted Christ as Lord, and were then taken with Him into heaven (though there probably were at least some that were so hardened by sin that they still rejected God). Now that's unconditional love that seeks the highest good of man!

God knew from eternity that man would fall into sin. He also knew when He flooded the earth that all those people were going to be given another chance to accept Him. When God saw how wicked man had become, and that every thought of his heart was evil, He knew that He had to do something. Since there was no atonement for sin, and no way to remove the sin nature from man until after Christ's death, God decided to flood the earth. He knew that sin can increase from generation to generation, and He didn't want that level of sin being passed on to the next generation. So He flooded the earth knowing that one day all those same people that died would have another chance to be saved! Praise and glory to God! As my friend Chuck Parry says, "God's idea of justice is that He took personal responsibility for all of His creations sins."

Before I close I also want to say that I am convinced that there will be more people who make it to heaven than who go to hell. You may disagree, but the very essence of everything that God is would say otherwise. God could not be all-loving, powerful, knowing, goodness, kindness, mercifulness, and even justice, and create mankind for the purpose of sending most of them to hell. That completely contradicts the revelations of our Heavenly Father!

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It is impossible for God to be all love, and do such a cruel thing. Yes people have free choice, but He knew from the beginning what was going to happen to mankind. He also knows that every single person was created for His love, and every person deep down longs to be re-connected with His love, even if they're not conscious of it. To think that He hasn't victoriously planned out ways to rescue the majority of His people that He created for His love, is to say that God is a weak, not-so victorious, barely merciful, and even cruel God. That sounds more like the position of the devil to me, than the position of our infinitely glorious and amazing Father!

God is so loving He never would've created man in the first place if He knew that most of them were going to end up in hell, just like He never would've created angels if He knew that most of them would turn from Him. It would completely contradict His nature to do so! So how could we ever believe such things about Him? I believe lies like this are a huge part of the reason why we see so little of God's love manifesting in believers. We cannot be more loving, kind, merciful, and good than God is. So when your revelation of God is that He created man to send most of them to hell (or He created them knowing that they would go to hell), that makes God look like a somewhat loving, but also likes to create most things so He can destroy them and pour out His wrath on them kind of God.

Then you're left with a very small measure of victorious, glorious, powerful love to receive from Him, or to demonstrate to others. Not only that, but you're far more likely to go around wishing God's judgment and wrath on others out of self-righteousness just like the Pharisees did! (The Scriptures declare in multiple places that the Pharisees sought to kill Jesus, who is the God they said they believed in, for breaking the law of the Sabbath to heal someone. They literally sought to kill the God they said they served, because they did not understand the greatness of God's heart of love for His people, and His willingness to do whatever was necessary to help His beloved people. Which included breaking one of His own laws, which

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was punishable by death, in order to heal someone. See Matt. 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6 Just like some people might want to throw stones at me for proclaiming things like this about the just love of God!)

That's why I said that lies like this made me disconnect from God's heart in major ways. The fact is that if we truly believe that God is so limited in victory, and believe the devil is able to take over 2/3 of mankind to hell with him (which makes the devil seem more powerful and victorious than God), then that actually gives a really good explanation as to why many Christians today feel so powerless to do much of anything. Of course the devil would want God's children to have such a false revelation of His nature, because the devil gains power by deceiving the children of God into thinking he's so much more powerful than he actually is!

Remember God gave us authority over ALL of the devil's power, and nothing shall by any means harm us! (Luke 10:19) We are the ones to be reigning in life through Jesus Christ, advancing the kingdom of God, and destroying the devil's works! It's time we rightly understand the true nature of our Father's love, that we might be greater manifestations of His love in the earth! We can only love to the measure we've been loved, so if our perspective of God's love is so limited/wrong, then our ability to receive His love for us, and to love others will also be limited/hindered.

Now I got a very important question for you: If Jesus went into Hades once already, what would stop Him from doing it again? I won't really get much into what I believe about this, nor am I yet certain of the truth in this area, but I will leave you with some last points to think about:

First of all, I am convinced that there will be more people who make it to heaven than who go to hell. You may disagree, but as I said before the very essence of everything that God is would say otherwise. Secondly, I have not found any Scripture in the Bible that specifically says that once a person dies without accepting Christ, they have absolutely no chance of receiving Christ and entering heaven. If this is true, then why have so many taught something "with absolute certainty" that is not written in

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Scripture, and that we already have an example of Jesus doing the opposite? Yes, Jesus is the only way into heaven, but who said that what He did for those who died long ago, He couldn't do for those who died without hearing the gospel during the last 2,000 years?

Now I am certainly not saying that everyone will be saved, as the Bible is very clear that there will be people who do not make it to heaven. Nor am I saying that everyone will get another chance. Nor would I ever want to risk something like that and potentially spend eternity separated from God. I certainly would never want to turn from God after knowing Him, nor would I encourage anyone else to turn from Him. I also believe that it is our responsibility in love to preach the gospel to the nations, and to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth. But what about people who've never heard the gospel before, or weren't old enough to make an adequate decision for Christ? God is a just judge, but He is also the one who has the power to make and bend the rules according to His heart of love for people. God is God and He does whatever He wants, who are we to tell Him that He can't go back into Hades and preach the gospel again? Selah

(As a reminder I am not declaring that every person who goes to Hades now will be saved, or even have a chance at being saved, I am simply proposing questions for you to consider in your own relationship with God. I have my own beliefs about this, but for right now those beliefs are between me and God.)

To Love is to Fear the Lord

Psalm 103:17:

“But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children--”

The fear of the Lord is also found within His love! This is another attribute of God that has often been looked at as being separate from love, so I think it's good for us to take a brief look at what it means for it to be in love.

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Prov. 1:7:

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Remember earlier how we went over that knowledge puffs up, but the knowledge of God’s love edifies, or builds up? Well in the beginning of the knowledge of God’s love, is the knowledge of the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord has many facets to it. For those who are God’s children the fear of the Lord is not a fear of punishment, wrath, vengeance, destruction, or any of these kinds of characteristics.

1 John 4:18:

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

In other words if there’s any part of your soul that is afraid to come to God, then it has not been perfected in love. Sin is what makes people afraid to come to the Lord (or false religious mindsets, which are also from sin). The fire of God’s love consumes sin like hair in a blazing inferno. So mindsets, thoughts, and ways of sin in our souls can cause us to be afraid to approach God. But if we’re not holding on to those sinful ways, then we have nothing to fear! Our Father loves us unconditionally and seeks our highest good at all times, so there’s never any reason for us to fear coming before Him. It is when we sin against Him that we need to come before Him even more, so that His love can give us grace to free us from those sins.

Heb. 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. (16) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Christ died for us while we were sinners, how much more should we be unafraid to draw near to God as His righteous

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children in the midst of our weaknesses and shortcomings! For a child of God the fear of the Lord is more of a reverential fear that recognizes the awesomeness and capableness of God's power, therefore causing us to be even more drawn to Him. Especially when we realize that with how powerful He is, He calls us His sons and daughters! It also gives us an understanding that sin could destroy us if we choose to turn from God, causing us to not only be separated from His love, but to eventually be condemned to eternal suffering. This is a fear of the Lord that causes us to turn from evil.

Psalms 97:10:

“You who love the Lord, hate evil! *He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.”* (Boldness added)

Prov. 8:13a:

“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; *Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.”* (Boldness added)

It is impossible to truly love God and not hate sin. When you truly love God, the last thing you would ever want is to be separated from His love. Since sin is what tries to separate us from God's love, that is why we hate sin. The worst part about hell is not the flames, it is the absence of the love of God! Being completely void of all that is love, to only be filled with sin and nothingness. Certainly the flames don't feel good either, but it is the inner torment of the soul being completely separated from the love of God that I believe is the worst torment.

I've had personal glimpses of this kind of torment, of feeling the agonizing pain of being separated from our Creator's love because of sin. This kind of separation can literally be tormenting to our soul. I believe that is the worst kind of torment there is, to be void of all life and love. Many people (including unbelievers) don't realize how much of God's grace is in them until they find themselves in a place where His Spirit withdraws. That's why one

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of the great requests of David in the Bible was asking God not to take His Spirit away from him (Psalms 51:11).

We have a fear of the Lord because we recognize the consequences of evil. But as John says, this should never be a fear of punishment from God. Sin brings consequences because we reap what we sow. Many have often mistaken reaping consequences of sin, for God punishing them. God never punishes His children, because all of God's punishment towards us was taken by Jesus on the cross! (Though He does discipline us in love, which is different than punishment.)

God does have the ability to remove the consequences of our sins, as well as removing the sins themselves, but this does not always happen. It's important to know that even if we have sinned greatly against the Lord, if we repent He is always fully ready to help us through any consequences that may result. It's not that we should ever keep God as our lifeline to call on in times of trouble, it is realizing that without the life of God manifesting in us at all times, we are already in trouble! To be empty of God, or to be filled with sin, is to be void of anything meaningful, and to stray from the very purpose of our existence. To be filled with God is to be overflowing in love at all times, and to teach others the destitution of a God-less life!

On the other hand there is a true terror of the Lord for those who don't know Him, or choose to turn away from Him after knowing Him.

Heb. 10:31:

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

2 Pet. 2:20-21:

"For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. (21) For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them."

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Heb. 12:28-29:

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. (29) For our God is a consuming fire.”

It truly is terrifying to stand before the all-consuming, holy, fiery, powerful, love of God on the day of judgment when you have willingly rejected Him from your life. Being afraid, or even better, being utterly terrified would be a better description of this kind of fear of the Lord. Those who reject the love of Christ as Lord and Savior, as well as those who choose to deny Him after once knowing Him, have every good reason to be afraid to stand before God on the day of judgment in that condition. This is another good reason for us as believers to turn from evil and to do good. The devil is also terrified of the Lord, because his nature is sin. But we should never be afraid of the devil, because whenever Christ is manifested in and through us, the devil literally becomes terrified of us! (James 4:7) Not just Christ, but Christ in us the hope of glory!

Ultimately though, if someone loves God, the fear of the Lord should only lead us closer to Him. When we truly experience the depths of God’s love for us, I believe it eventually becomes almost impossible to ever want to turn away from Him. The more filled with His love we are, the easier it is for us to turn from sin. The more we are filled with God’s love, the more we will utterly detest sin. To love is to hate, to hate everything that is contrary to God’s love! This is the opposite of sin, which hates everything that has to do with God’s love. But guess what, God’s love is infinitely greater!

If there is ever a time when we are struggling with sin, it is a time when we need more of His love to fill us up, and set us free from any manifestations of sin. It’s not a time to beat yourself up, make yourself feel like God is going to throw a fire ball from heaven to punish you, or start claiming that you’re unworthy to come to God. It’s a time to go before the throne of grace and love, to receive the empowerment you need to be made free! Not just

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forgiven, but freed from sin by being empowered with His love! That's what true fear of the Lord does, causes you to not relent in coming to God until His love has made you victorious!

Are Anger, Sorrow, and Wrath Attributes of Love?

Now this is an interesting part of God's love. Believe it or not all of God's anger, wrath, sorrow, and violence are manifestations of His love! This also can really change the way we look at these manifestations as well. For a variety of reasons I felt it would not be adequate enough to cover these things in depth for right now, I mean there's only so much room in one book right? I think there are far more important attributes to cover in priority, because God is not primarily an angry, wrathful, and vengeful God. But I did want to talk about these manifestations briefly, because some have a wrong view of love as meaning that we're always supposed to just be gentle, compassionate, and kind, and never get angry. Love can get very angry, and even violent when someone is trying to harm God's beloved!

Now before we go on though, I want to share something really important about the "attributes" of God like wrath, anger, violence, sorrow, grief, and things like this. I have come to realize that these manifestations of God are not necessarily eternal, infinitely manifesting attributes like the other attributes we've covered so far. Part of why I say this is because anger, wrath, violence, sorrow, and things like that are all responses that God has to sin, and don't necessarily manifest at all times like the other attributes. As far as I know, God never manifests these things, except in response to sin. 1 Cor. 13:5 says love "is not easily angered." Meaning that love isn't angry, unless you do something to make it angry. This is not like the other attributes of love listed in 1 Cor. 13 where it just simply says that love is patient, kind, etc; implying all the time. God will forever be joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, wise, just, holy, righteous, gracious, and so forth, and will always be manifesting these things in His children for all eternity.

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However it says that in heaven all pain, sorrow, and death (Rev. 21:4) will flee away. These things are all the result of sin. So is grief, or deep felt pain. Often times in the Old Testament we see that when people sinned against God, it caused pain, grief, and sorrow to His heart, and then His wrath/anger would be aroused (See Gen. 6:5-7, Isa. 63:10, Psalm 95:7-11). Which shows us that these manifestations are all a result of people's sins against God, and are often connected to each other. When God suffers pain, grief, and sorrow as a result of sins done against Him/others, this can then cause Him to eventually manifest His wrath/anger to destroy the evil that is causing Him pain (Unless He forgives/shows mercy). Which means that if wrath and anger are attributes of God, so are sorrowing and grieving.

The Bible also says in Rom. 4:14-15 that the law brought about wrath, because "where there is no law, there is no transgression." Implying that when there is no transgression, or sins, there is no more wrath. Which leads me to conclude that it is most likely that there is another aspect to some of the attributes of God, that makes them a bit different from the other attributes of God's nature of love, specifically with those that seem to only manifest when sin is present. This also leads me to believe that it is possible that anger, wrath, sorrow, grieving, etc, are not even attributes of God at all, but instead are responsive manifestations that God has against sin, and that's why it says there is no more sorrow, pain, etc, in heaven.

Though I do have some understanding of this aspect of God's nature, it is still a bit of a mystery to me, and really there is soooo much more of God's nature that I personally have yet to even discover. One thing I am certain of though, is that since everything that God is, is love, these things are also manifestations of God's love. With that being considered, there are 3 main possibilities that I see for explaining these "attributes" or manifestations of God (though there could be something else I haven't considered yet):

One is that things like wrath, anger, sorrow, grieving, jealousy, and such attributes, are eternal attributes/characteristics

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of God's nature that are always manifesting in different ways, just like all of His other attributes. Another possibility is that God has "responsive attributes," that are attributes/characteristics of His love, but unlike the other attributes, they remain inactive unless sin is present. These "responsive attributes" become active when sin is manifesting in God's people/creation. Once sin is gone, these attributes still remain part of God's nature, but no longer manifest, or become inactive. And another possibility is that anger, wrath, jealousy, sorrowing, grieving, etc, are not eternal attributes of God at all, but are instead responsive manifestations of God's nature against sin, or from being sinned against. Without sin being present these manifestations of God's nature stop manifesting (He only manifests these things when sin is present).

Now I'm not absolutely certain which of these 3 is right according to the truth of God, or if there is another possibility. I will say that I personally believe that it is the 2nd choice. According to Scriptures it seems quite clear that God is not always manifesting His wrath, anger, sorrow, grief, etc, in infinite ways, and for all eternity, and even through us. I don't believe God was always grieving/angry in the beginning, nor will He be for all eternity after sin is removed from His people and His creation (Except those who dwell in hell, but once the people in hell have been judged, it's possible that God is no longer grieved/angry about their sins, because they've already been judged). I believe that things like wrath, anger, sorrow, grieving, rebuking, and other manifestations like this, are responsive attributes/manifestations of God's nature of love that can manifest desires, thoughts, motives, ways, and works, but only in response to sin/when sin is present. Since I'm not certain what the truth about these things is, if I refer to these kinds of manifestations as attributes, just remember that I am not certain what the complete truth is in these areas, so you can just interpret it according to whatever the Lord shows you to be true/you think is right for now.

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There is much more I could say about these things, but ultimately I also think it's good for you to simply ask God about it yourself, and see what He shows you. We all have infinitely more to discover when it comes to the nature of God, and a big part of this book is helping empower you into discovering God's nature for yourself. So feel free to explore these things in more detail, and enjoy getting to know the awesome and incredible nature of our Father's love more!

The Wrath, Violence, and Anger of Love

Even though God's wrath, anger, grief, etc, are connected to each other, I wanted to take some time here to focus more specifically on the anger/wrath of God's love.

Song of Song 8:6 AMP:

“Set me like a seal upon your heart, like a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy is as hard and cruel as Sheol (the place of the dead). Its flashes are flashes of fire, a most vehement flame [the very flame of the Lord]!”

The all-consuming fire of God, is the ever burning fire of His love! And that love is very jealous for the ones He loves! Zach. 2:8 says that God's people are “the apple of His eye.” God is willing to take vengeance on His enemies in love, wrath, anger, and more. Love doesn't always just “play nice,” but there is definitely a time for love to “kick butt and take names” so to speak. Haha. It is very important for us to know though that all of God's wrath, anger, violence, vengeance, and more, were satisfied on the cross of Christ. He took all of these things for us, so that we would never have to experience them! Praise God! I believe even unbelievers right now are in a period of grace where God will not pour out His wrath upon them until the time of the return of Christ, as well as the final judgment.

So God is not angry with people right now, because He sees all people as potentially saved by the blood of Jesus. But what God does hate is the demonic powers, worldly systems,

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and manifestations of the sin nature in the world around us (and in people's lives). God wants to remove and destroy every manifestation of sin in the lives of people, and in the earth. But He does not want to destroy a single person (though there will be people who do suffer His wrath as I said earlier). God also wants to destroy ALL of the devil's works! He wants to execute vengeance against all the schemes of the wicked one, because God judged the enemy on the cross (John 16:11). That means that even now God's wrath is being poured out on the enemy by destroying His works!

That's also why the devil is terrified of believers who actually walk in the love of Christ, because His fiery love is all-consuming in vengeance against the enemy! Praise God! His love is all-consuming in goodness, mercy, kindness, affection, wisdom, holiness, and these kinds of attributes toward us, but it is a fire of vengeance, wrath, and destruction against the enemy because the enemy has already been judged by God! (The enemy's judgment has not been fully fulfilled yet, which is why he hasn't been cast into the lake of fire yet, but as the people of God we can begin to release the Spirit of God to execute vengeance on the enemy right now through destroying his works.) The love of God is what the devil fears most, because God's love is the only thing that can destroy him and his works. So the more love we walk in as believers, the more we will see these things take place! Glory to God!

On the other hand we are never to be angry, violent, or even pray for God's wrath to be directed at people. As we went over earlier God is the only Judge who can judge people, and we are now in a time of love and grace towards ALL people. God wants every person saved, healed, delivered, and much more! He loves all people unconditionally and seeks their highest good regardless of the most evil things they've done. We are to do the same!

We can be righteously angry/hate when we see injustice in the earth, against sickness and disease, against the enemy,

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against the lies of sin deceiving people, and about the sins we see in people's lives, but we are NEVER to direct our anger at the people themselves. That is God's business, and ONLY His business! Remember we have to separate the sin from the person. He's a good God, who's in a good mood, and only gives good gifts to His children. His desire is that all men would be saved, and that none would perish, no matter how wicked they are. Our position on earth is to love all people unconditionally and seek their highest good at all times regardless of whatever sins they commit. It is the kindness of God that leads to repentance.

Rom. 2:4 NIV:

"Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance."

Really I believe that every attribute of God leads people to repentance, because repentance is a continual process as we come to know God more and more for who He is. (If you think about it, as we said earlier repentance can mean to change the way you think. Well every attribute of God helps manifest the different thoughts of God, which is what changes the way you think!)

There is so much more that we could go over about these attributes, but unfortunately that'll have to be for another time. It's important to know as well that there is a righteous anger (Eph. 4:26), and a righteous violence (Matt. 11:12) that God's love can manifest through believers. I think that generally these things should never be manifested against people, but against the devil, sin, sickness, and things of that nature. There is also an anger, violence, and wrath of the sin nature that is not from God (Col. 3:8). This kind of anger is what happens when someone starts to be angry, or violent towards another person. I also believe that if we do manifest a righteous anger against sin, it should only be temporary.

Eph. 4:26-27:

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“Be angry and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, (27) nor give place to the devil.”

Psalm 30:5:

“His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.”

Meaning that anger, wrath, sorrow, grief, etc, are only temporary manifestations of God’s nature in response to sin, and are not things that we should be manifesting at all times. So if you’re angry or sorrowful all the time, it’s not from God! It is very wise for us to imitate our God in being very slow to anger, and abounding in love, lest our anger lead to sin. I hesitate to share these things without going deeper to help clarify the differences more, because some people might think that their unrighteous anger is from God (when it’s not). Some good overall advice is that if you ever find yourself angry with a person, only sin would enable you to do that. God’s nature may cause us to be angry at something someone does, but we should always still love that person regardless.

We should never give someone good reason to think that our heart is a heart of anger towards them, and not love. Obviously walking in love in these areas can be challenging at times since we are all learning to walk more in love, but I think that people need to at least be aware that it is a good thing to be angry sometimes, as long as it is in the love of God. We definitely shouldn’t be mostly angry people though.

I believe that the vast majority of God’s attributes are more things like kindness, goodness, mercy, favor, blessing, grace, and so on. As far as I know there are very few attributes of God that represent things like wrath, vengeance, sorrow, anger, and the like. These are all manifestations of His love, but in so many ways God is a much more good and kind God, than an angry and violent God. In fact God even says this about Himself in the OT:

Ex. 34:6-7

“And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, ‘The LORD, the

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LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, (7) maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished."

He is the God who is slow to anger, but abounding in love, faithfulness, compassion and grace. So if our view of God is often seeing Him as in a bad mood, and ready to punish, then we are seeing God from a very wrong perspective. And if we are portraying God that way to others, then we are also definitely misrepresenting Him as well. We should be a people who are slow to things like anger, but always peaceful, compassionate, kind, gentle, merciful, and gracious in His extravagant love at all times, and towards all people!

Correcting/Rebuking in Love

Well if it isn't the good old rebuking a brother in love time... haha. I'm partially kidding. Maybe some have been wondering if I would talk about these facets of love. There are so many different attributes to the nature of His love, and the variations are so great that if we misunderstand them it can almost seem like they contradict each other. Be assured though, there is no contradiction, but simply different manifestations, or aspects, of God that cover every possible area of life. This includes Correcting and Rebuking. These are both manifestations of God that are found in His love.

Rev. 3:19:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent."

Prov. 3:12:

"For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights."

It is the unconditional, highest goodwill love of God that causes Him to correct those He loves. When God corrects, or

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rebukes, it is always to accomplish the purposes of His love in our lives. He never rebukes harshly, out of malice, or to punish His children in any way. All of God's corrections and rebukes are aimed at the wrong thoughts, mindsets, and ways that He wants to remove from our lives. A major part of how God does this is through speaking His truths in love.

John 17:17:

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

Eph. 4:15 NIV:

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the head, that is, Christ."

God brings forth His truths in love to sanctify, or cleanse, the sin out of our souls. Speaking the truth in love is what can help correct people in edifying ways. Truthful love will address the situation with a strong desire to see God's goodness manifested in that person's life. It is only motivated to help, encourage, and build others up into the greatness of God that they are called to live in. It is never to belittle, condemn, punish, or pour guilt on someone. This kind of correction often tries to use truth to hurt people.

In the same way that knowledge outside of love can puff someone up, it can also tear someone down. These kinds of rebukes, or corrections, will often leave a person feeling rejected and pushed farther away from God, while somewhat helpless to change the situation. When these kind of "corrections" come from a believer, it is often the result of mindsets of sin operating in that person's life. Even if what they said was true, it is always important to guard our hearts from such kinds of "correction," as I have seen these kinds of events cause much harm in the lives of many of the people of God.

It's not that we should not be open to listening to correction, because we should always be open to being corrected. But it's when we recognize that someone is speaking to us outside of a heart of love, that we make a conscious choice to carefully guard

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our heart from receiving any negative view points being released through that person as being truth. When someone is attempting to correct us from a heart of love, then we should be much more open to hearing what they have to say, even if we disagree with what they're saying. (Anyone who tries to correct outside of love can be attempting to release sinful garbage into your life, which is certainly not edifying, and therefore should be rejected)

All of God's rebukes towards His children are aimed at removing sin from our lives, and are not always meant to be taken personally in a sense. God knows it is not in our nature to sin, but it is in our nature to do righteousness. His heart always wants to help us remove any sin from our lives that might be trying to keep us from being the awesome children He created us to be. He never corrects people by only pointing out things that they're doing wrong. That's called fault-finding, or criticism, and is not part of God's nature. Instead He shows us what's wrong while bringing forth His truths in love to help remove the very issues He's addressing, and replaces them with His life. He empowers us with His life, while removing the things that are trying to harm us.

Sin is no longer our nature. So we should always see God's correction as a very good, and needed thing for our lives. We should also not take it personal in a way, because anything that has to do with sin is part of our old life, and has no place in our new life anyway! Yes, I do believe in owning up to sins that you chose to do, but what I'm saying is that we shouldn't ever see that sin as part of who we are in Christ, regardless of how many times we've sinned. We are new creations in Christ who have a brand new nature and identity in Christ, and are freed from sin. So anything that has to do with sin belongs to the old "us," not the new.

I am absolutely convinced that the more we know the love of God personally, the less we will sin. The less we know God's love for us, the more opportunity that sin could have to fill in that gap. All the more reason to show love to someone who is doing wrong, as it can actually help that person to receive freedom! So

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when God brings us His life in the form of truth, and corrects things we are doing wrong, we should always be receptive to this kind of correction.

Lord knows I've resisted correction many times, but the more I experience His love, the more easy it becomes to receive it because I realize that He is correcting me so that I can experience more of His love for me! What a great motivator to help us receive correction! Sure He also corrects us when we're being selfish towards others, but even then the more His love flows through us, the more it will increase in our lives as well.

When correcting other people, we should always separate the sin from the person. We should see the person we are correcting as perfectly righteous in God's sight, and as someone who truly wants to do what is right deep down. We are simply assisting them in removing a part of the old nature that doesn't belong to that person anymore. Correction should also always be done with a motivation of sincere love, and wanting to see that person be even greater in God. Every sin is caused by a part of our souls not experiencing God's love. This is why showing unconditional love towards people is the best way to help them! We often don't know the root cause of why people are doing the things they do, but God does!

One of the standards that God has given me for rebuking or correcting someone is that I should always come into it with the intention and desire of actually becoming even closer to that person than before. We should always show great value for the person's right to free choice, and for our desire to still have a healthy relationship with them. At times sin can cause a gap in relationships between the family of God, and so we need to correct in love so that we don't continue to be hurt, or separated from one another. (And/Or so that they don't hurt themselves/sin against God)

There are many right ways to go about this, but ultimately I think it's more about the heart behind the correction than what way you choose to go about it. If love is not the motivation

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behind the correction, then it's better to pray for them, and keep our mouth shut.

For a season of my own life the Lord (in many situations) would not allow me to correct people who were sinning against me. During this time He would tell me to forgive them even if they never repented, or even acknowledged they did something wrong. Not only would I have to forgive them, but then the Lord wanted me to treat them like nothing ever happened, and to continue to seek their best good. It was quite a struggle for me at first, but eventually I found that it brought much transformation into my own heart. I found that it helped me deal with issues in my own life of things like offense, conditional love, and bitterness, and really helped me to come to a greater place of unconditional love towards people.

Before this time when people would sin against me (especially if it was something really wrong from another believer) there were many times where I would not be so loving about it. This process really helped change that by teaching me to love people regardless of the way that they treat me. Now when someone sins against me it is so much easier to correct them if I need to from a place of love and wanting to help them, instead of from a wrong heart. (Though I still have plenty more work to go! Haha)

It has also helped me to still love people after they've sinned against me, and to not feel like I always need to say something about it. I still think that at times the best response I can have is to just keep my mouth shut until I have something sincerely loving to say. Lord help us to walk more in your love in every area of our lives, and to love others with Your love!!! 😊

Let's Love One Another

I know that some of these revelations/attributes we went over may be a bit different from some of the things you may have believed about God. It is so important for us to represent Him the way He really is, and not misrepresent His heart to others.

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Love is the key! Some may even think that I'm over-emphasizing love to be too nice and gentle. The reality is that so many have had such a wrong view of God's heart that these kinds of things may seem really radical. Everything that God is, is LOVE, so any idea we may have had of Him that isn't love, was never the truth of God in the first place!

On the other hand, I realize some have thought that unconditional love means that we just let people sin and do whatever they want, and never do anything about it. Love doesn't hate people, but it does hate evil. A huge part of God's unconditional love that seeks our highest good means greatly desiring to see every form of sin removed from our lives, and filled with His life! It is not love to just sit back and watch someone destroy their own life, and the lives of others, without doing anything about it. That is not love!

So I hope that these things help us walk more securely in the right foundation of understanding the truths of God's love. Yes there is soooo much more to His love than what we've covered so far, but hopefully this helps you be more empowered in His love for you! It's also important to know that when we build on an incomplete or partially right/partially wrong foundation of understanding God's nature (apart from His love) it can be easy for us to receive false revelations of who He is. Honestly this is part of why I'm so astonished that a good number of the basic truths in this book have been unknown to so many in the body of Christ! It's sad to know that so many people are not building on the true/complete foundation of understanding God's nature of LOVE. Together we can begin to change this. It's time we as a body of Christ seek to know our Father's love, and how to rightly show our Father's love to others, so that the world might know His love through us!

John 15:9-12:

'As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

(10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

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(11) These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Since the nature of God's love is selfless, when we are loved by God the supernatural response for us is to love others. We were created to be a river, not a dam. Jesus said that rivers of living water will flow from our innermost being (John 7:38). These rivers are the eternal rivers of God's love! If we receive God's love for us, but don't allow His love to flow through us, then we can become a dam, and His love may begin to "dry up" from our lives. We need to love as we are loved!

On the other hand, if we are loving others, but are having difficulty showing love in certain situations, it could be because there are areas of our life where we haven't first received God's love for us. I believe this is a big reason as to why we can have such trouble showing God's love. We can only give what we've received. If we haven't become secure in our Father's love, sometimes our insecurities can cause us to do things that are wrong. It is important not to beat ourselves up (or others) for things like this, but to realize that we all have plenty of room to grow. God is so patiently kind and loving towards us. The more we receive His love for us, and abide in that love continually, the easier it will be for us to love others.

This is how we are called to live: Being loved, loving God, and loving others. So many are trying to burn with passion for God, instead of burning with the passion of God. That's why many people get burned out! Others are trying to love God and people with a greater love than what they've first received for themselves. That's impossible! God's passion is the most hardcore there is, so I would certainly much rather burn with His passionate love than try to burn on my own! I hope that we can learn to love more sincerely as a true and holy family in the Lord. By confessing our weaknesses, letting go of offenses, and making a conscious commitment to loving others no matter what, things can really change in the world today. It starts by each one of us

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making a decision to continually receive God's love for ourselves, and then follow God's standards of love regardless of the way people treat us. No more conditional love, only the agape love of Christ!

Eph. 5:1-2:

"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. (2) And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

A Standard of Righteous Love

It's time for us as a body to lay aside divisions in doctrines, denominations, positions, and titles to come together in love. If we allow these things to separate and divide our family, then we aren't walking in love. Anything that stands in the way of God's perfect love for all needs to be brought to the cross of Christ, and resurrected into new life! Too many people will mock, gossip, condemn, criticize, or separate themselves from other believers for some of the smallest reasons. Other believers are so quick to reject anyone who simply doesn't agree with them, or does some kind of wrong against them. All of these things are a result of a lack of walking in Christ's love. Often times things like this happen because of something that was done wrong, misunderstanding, difference in doctrine, offense, or just plain selfishness.

Even if someone sins against us we are still to love them unconditionally, and seek their highest good. To reject another believer is to reject Christ (Luke 10:16)! Just because someone does something wrong against us doesn't mean we can now cut them out of our lives, or treat them poorly. That's called selfishness. By understanding the things I've been sharing with you here, I've come to learn that this can actually cause a believer to slow in growth, or eventually even backslide. Every time we mistreat another person, even if they did something wrong against us, we choose to show conditional love (selfishness)

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instead of unconditional love. This can allow sin to increase in our lives, and God's love to decrease.

We can only be filled to the measure of God's fullness, that we are filled to the fullness of His love! The more we choose to forgive and love people even when they sin against us, the more Christ's love will flow through us. The more we allow offenses, misunderstandings, and things of that nature to give us an excuse to distance ourselves from (or even be bitter towards) other people/believers, the less we will grow in the love of Christ; and the more of an opportunity sin can have to grow in our life. So let's walk in love, forgive one another, and seek to be the true family of God that always seeks the highest good for all people! Our Father created us to be a family of His love, so let's be the amazingly loving children that He created us to be. This kind of love is sure to shake the nations!

Now take some time and think about the things we went over. Ask God to reveal the truths of His loving grace, justice, fear of the Lord, anger, grief, wrath, correcting, and rebuking to you. Ask Him to manifest the revelations of these things in your life like never before, and to clear up any misperceptions you may have had of Him. If there are any relationships with other believers that you feel you need to release forgiveness in, do so. If there are any people you need to ask forgiveness from, or people you've pushed away that need to be shown love, feel free to do that as well! Ask God to fill you with His love like never before, and to help you love in ever-increasing measures. The more we love, the more His love will flow through us! Glory to God!!!

Further Reading: Culture of Honor by Danny Silk

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Chapter 11

The Senses of Love

Whoo boy this one's gonna be a doozy! Haha. The things that we are going to go over together in the next couple chapters have helped me so much to experience God in greater ways, and live more supernaturally in His love! God so greatly wants us to encounter Him, and know Him more through personal experience, not just to read about Him! Therefore it is absolutely necessary for us to learn more, so that we can experience Him more. I hope you are really hungry and thrilled to learn more ways to encounter God. I know I am! We have soooooo much more to learn of Him, by personally experiencing His love for us!

This chapter is not by any means an extensive manual on how to experience God through activating your spiritual senses. In fact I've had to leave out many things that I wanted to share simply because of space. There are references at the end of the chapter that can help you dive deeper into these things, and many more out there that I have never read. Instead my desire for this chapter is to help introduce what may be some different revelations on how to experience God in reference to His attributes. I've heard some wonderful teachings about activating spiritual senses, but not so much about the connection our senses have with the attributes of God. What I felt the Lord wanted to do here is help bridge that connection a little bit. If you aren't satisfied with my explanations of things, or if you simply want to learn more, I highly encourage you to look into more resources!

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Our Spiritual Senses

God originally created man to be a spiritual being that is one with Him, has a soul, and dwells in a body. When the fall happened it reversed the order to being sinful man that has sin living in his body, enslaving his soul, and bringing death to his spirit (separating us from God). Once we become born again in Christ the process is supposed to be restored back to spiritual living. The problem is, that though Christ has restored this for us, many are not walking in these realities due to not understanding spiritual realities, as well as the wrong thinking in our souls.

God created our spiritual man with spiritual senses similar to those of our body, but much greater. Just as God, who is Spirit, can see, hear, taste, touch, smell, and more without needing a physical body, so can we. Our spiritual man is created in the image of God, and has divinely-enabled spiritual senses just like God. Our spirit is now one with the Spirit of God, and He shares His senses with us. Now there are more senses than the 5 I listed earlier, but to be honest I'm still learning how those senses function, and wouldn't want to try to teach on that right now. For now I want to share a little bit on the spiritual senses of seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, and smelling.

Seeing

There is an attribute of God's love that is Seeing or Sight.

John 5:19-20:

“Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. (20) For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.’”

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The Father's love for the Son is what caused Him to show all things to Him. It is the Father's love for us, that enables us to see spiritually as well.

Gen. 16:13:

"Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, 'Have I also here seen Him who sees me?'"

Notice how this says that when she saw Him, she realized that God could see her. In order for us to understand how our spiritual eyes work, we need to understand how God sees. All of creation's ability to see comes from the attribute of God's love that is Seeing. Without this attribute of God, sight would not exist. Everything we are and do comes from God's attributes, which includes our ability to see (and all the other senses too). These attributes can manifest in God's Spirit, our spirit, our soul, and our body. It is God's attribute of seeing, combined with His other attributes, that enable even the eyes of our bodies to be able to see. Everything in creation that can see is able to do so because it was created with the attribute of Seeing (in combination with other attributes as well). There is also spiritual blindness, and physical blindness. Both are the result of there being a lack of God's attribute of seeing.

John 9:39:

"And Jesus said, 'For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.'"

2 Cor. 4:4:

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

I once had an encounter with God about His sight. I had an experience in which I was standing before God's throne as God began to speak to me about His spiritual eyes. He told me that

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our spiritual eyes are so much greater than the eyes of our body. He shared how His spiritual eyes weren't confined to the eyes of His "body." Then He gave me some Scriptures:

Prov. 15:3 NIV:

"The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good."

Heb. 4:13:

"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

Wow! God's eyes are everywhere and they see everything all the time! Holy Jesus! That's a whole lot more than just one pair of eyes! During this encounter I also saw one of the four living creatures next to the throne who's wings are covered with eyes, which represented the all-seeing eyes of God (Rev. 4:6). God was wanting me to realize that our spiritual man can see so much more than what our physical bodies can. This blew me away! I began to realize so much more that my spiritual man can see into multiple dimensions, and multiple things at the same time! Now I know this may be a little stretching for some, or really challenge some of the wrong mindsets/strongholds, but I encourage you not to reject something just because you don't fully understand it. If it's not impossible to understand according to the natural mind, then it's not God! (see 1 Cor. 2:14)

It is only through our God-given mind that we can begin to understand these spiritual realities. I assure you that I'm not crazy, I have the mind of Christ! The world is crazy, they're the ones who have lost their God-given minds, and are living in delusions! (Crazy means to lose your mind. God gave us His mind, so when people fall from the mind of Christ, and think the thoughts of sin, that is "craziness.") Jesus demonstrated this in His own life.

John 5:19:

"Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you,

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the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. (20) For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.”

The whole time Jesus walked on the earth He could only do what He first saw His Father in Heaven doing. He could see into multiple realms, or dimensions, at the same time. Which means that even from birth Jesus was able to see and sense the Father with perfect clarity! Wow! That's also part of how He was able to never sin, even from birth. Jesus could never have lived a sinless life unless He always knew what His Father was doing, which means that even from birth Jesus was able to see His Father at all times. As we went over earlier the Bible says that “Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.” (1 John 2:6) Which means that from the moment we were born again, we are supposed to be seeing God, and doing what we see Him doing!

John 3:3:

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

Eph. 2:6 NIV:

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

Here's the thing, as soon as we are born again our spiritual man is resurrected into oneness with Christ. Since Christ raised us up into the Heavenly places with Him, our spiritual man can now sense God and His kingdom. Therefore our spiritual man can now see perfectly into the kingdom of God. The problem is that often times our soul is still so cluttered with sinful thoughts and ways, that our spiritual sight isn't manifesting like it should through our whole being. These strongholds can then hinder, or block, the ability of our spiritual man to see through our soul and

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body. Many Christians live more out of their soul man, than they do from their spirit man. This also can hinder us from seeing into the spiritual realms. The biggest need though is simply to be taught how to see! Once our soul learns how to see, anyone can see into the spiritual realms! This is such a necessary part of Christianity that has often been neglected, or rejected, by believers. For too long we have allowed spiritual sight to be something that's "uncommon," or only for a few special people.

I've heard a number of people who do see in the Spirit say that they have a "Seer" gift. In many ways that's true. The ability to see is a gift of God's grace, but that grace was given to all believers through cross of Christ! I think that some have confused the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12 with the attributes of God that enable every single person to sense Him in many ways. What I'm talking about here isn't the gift of "discerning of spirits" (1 Cor. 12:10), though I do believe this gift can access a measure of spiritual sight. What I'm talking about is the much greater grace given to all believers the moment we are born again that enables every single child of God to see the God who created them, and to see the kingdom we were born into!

If Jesus was absolutely dependent upon seeing His Father at all times to live a righteous life, why do we think that we could possibly go without it? It's absurd to think that we could ever do the works Jesus did without being able to have a deep intimacy with God similar to what Jesus had. It is completely wrong and unspiritual to think that we can't see God until we die. Guess what you're already dead, and have been resurrected with Christ! Some might say, "We walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor. 5:7)

This is true, but not the way you might think. Faith is actually how we see into the unseen realm, it's just not always perfectly clear. When we can see something with perfect clarity, then it becomes knowledge. To see with the eyes of faith is to believe in something you don't see/know with perfect clarity. To see with perfect clarity is to have knowledge of what you're seeing.

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1 Cor. 13:12a NLT:

“Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.”

John 3:11:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.”

It is by faith that we can begin to see into the supernatural realms of heaven. Jesus saw things with perfect clarity, and therefore could say that He knew what He was talking about. What we are able to see, we also know. We don't always see everything perfectly clearly, so in those areas we walk by faith. Otherwise why would Paul also say this:

2 Cor. 4:18 NIV:

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

How can we fix our eyes on something we can't see? That's impossible! Exactly. God did for us what is impossible for us to do without Him. He gave us spiritual eyes to see into His realms so that we could keep our eyes fixed on Him!

Eph. 1:17-18:

*“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, (18) **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.” (boldness added)*

In the NIV it says, “the eyes of your heart” instead of understanding. Meaning that the spiritual eyes of our hearts need to be enlightened, so that we can see into the realms of God and understand His mysteries! It is absolutely necessary for us to learn how to see in the spiritual realms if we want to know everything that God wants to reveal to us! This will make more sense as we continue, but for now I want to share a testimony:

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I prophesied over a friend of mine named Gina a few years ago that God was going to open her eyes to see angels. Not too long after she told me about an experience she had:

“I was in a woman’s conference in the mountains. It was the last session of the day, and about 11 in the evening. The pastor was speaking, and as he was speaking, he began to get really hot. Now this retreat was in the mountains, where it was pretty cold, and yet he began sweating he was so hot. So he started complaining about how hot it was, and asked that the windows be opened. Suddenly as I was looking around I began to see angels.

I was looking around and saw a bunch of arms over the other women in the conference, and thought, “How could these be the arms of the women,” because they were very big arms. Then I saw that behind the women there were angels holding up their arms. There were angels behind every single person. There were about 170-180 people there, and each one had an angel behind them. Then there were angels all over the room, and together they formed a circle around the room. They’re hair color looked like bronze...a mix of brown and red, but very shiny/glowing. Their “skin” was a white/tan color, and was also glowing. Their robes were different colors: bright red, orange, and green. They were standing guard with their arms up, as if they were worshipping, or protecting people. They were about 12 feet tall.

I was shocked and didn’t know what was going on. I thought, “I’m not on drugs, I didn’t drink anything, what’s going on?” I went to my room afterwards and was thinking about what had happened. The Lord told me that I was seeing angels, and that it was from him. This was the first time I had ever seen angels. The next day I shared what had happened with the pastor, and that the reason why he got so hot was because of the angels. There was another lady in the meeting who said she also had seen the angels.

Since that day I’ve seen angels many times, and in different places. God has helped me to know that I’m protected, and how powerful the angels are. Often times when I see them stand by someone, that person will feel really hot, and they don’t know

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why. Then I will go up to them and tell them that an angel is by them, because God wants them to know that He loves them, and sometimes they will start to cry.”

Wow! Isn't that awesome! It's so cool how God manifests himself to the humble and child-like in heart. We are just one supernatural encounter/experience away from having life-transforming breakthrough with God! He loves to reveal Himself through His angels too. I have found that unusual heat, or wind, is often a sign of angelic activity. Heb. 1:7 NIV “In speaking of the angels he says, ‘He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.’” So if you suddenly feel some unusual heat, or wind in places that you shouldn't be, it could be the presence of an angel that God has sent to minister to you! Praise God!

Hearing

Hearing is an attribute of God's love that enables us to hear.

Psalm 119:149:

“Hear my voice in accordance with your love; preserve my life, O LORD, according to your laws.”

I think that it is much more commonly accepted in the body of Christ that God still speaks to people today. God has many ways of speaking, and so there are also many ways of hearing. He can speak audibly, with an inner voice, through thoughts, through the Bible, through other people, and even through animals (Num. 22:28). There are many other ways God can speak to us, in fact it even says that all of creation declares the glory of God (Psalm 19:1)! If God can speak to us in all of these ways and more, then we can certainly hear Him in all of these ways.

Spiritual hearing goes beyond what the ears of our body can do. Our spirit communes with God in such deep ways. Since our spirit is one with the Spirit of the Lord, our spirit hears God perfectly. Since our spirit can never sin (which also means to miss the mark), part of not sinning is having perfect communion

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with the Spirit of God. Therefore our spirit always hears God perfectly (and senses God perfectly with all the senses). Part of the problem that we can have with hearing God's voice has to do with the need for greater revelation, and with wrong mindsets in our souls. In order to change this though, we need to understand how God speaks to people.

There are so many ways that God speaks that it would not be wise to try to limit Him to just a few. I would like to cover some basic ways of how to grow in our spiritual sense of hearing. One of the ways that we can hear God is often called "a still small voice." (see 1 Kings 19:12-13) This is an inner voice of God that can often be more quiet, or come in the form of a thought, but at other times can seem almost audible. God speaking in these kinds of ways comes from His Spirit within us.

God's voice also comes through His attributes. Remember that attributes can release His words, and His words carry His attributes. So when we hear God speak to us, if we receive what He says, this also releases a measure of His attributes into our hearts. His voice releases grace, peace, joy, love, mercy, faithfulness, wisdom, glory, honor, healing, power, and so much more! This is a big deal because in the Old Covenant God gave a law of commandments, but since we weren't born again, we had little to no grace to obey. But in the New Covenant God gives commands that carry the very attributes of His love that enable us to do what He commands. That's a big difference!

This is also another way for us to discern what we are hearing. Since our souls are often in need of much transformation and freedom, our souls can at times misperceive, or hear the voice of God wrong. Part of the reason why this happens is that even though our spirit hears God perfectly, whatever God is speaking then comes to our soul, and can be filtered through the mindsets that are in our soul. If there are many wrong mindsets in our soul there can be a greater chance of hearing God wrong.

It's a similar principle to what happens if you have dirt clogging your water filter. You don't always get what you were supposed to, or it can even pass the dirt through with the water.

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The more of God's heart, mind, and will that is manifesting in our souls, the easier it will be to hear God clearly. Now I am definitely not saying that we have to be perfect in order to hear God. The perfection of our spirit, and the supremacy of God's all-capable nature can make it very easy for even a new-born Christian to correctly hear God. What I am saying is that the more pure in heart we are, and the more rightly founded on truth, the easier it will be for us to hear God clearly in any of the ways that He speaks to us.

I haven't met a person yet that I'm aware of, who always heard God perfectly, 100% of the time, in every area of their life. I've heard a number of prophetic people say that they hear God well for others, but don't always hear Him well for themselves. Even if someone does hear God with 100% clarity, they probably didn't start out that way. Some of the prophets of old would hear God's voice with 100% accuracy because back then people weren't born again, and didn't have the Spirit of God living in them. The Spirit of God would come upon the prophets, and possess them so that every word was by the Spirit (1 Samuel 19:20-24). If they were wrong in anything they would be put to death, because the people didn't have the Spirit living in them, so they wouldn't be able to judge the word for themselves. They were often dependent on the prophets to hear from God, instead of hearing from Him directly. Since the Spirit of God doesn't just come upon believers now, but actually lives in all of us, things are very different. Now all of us can hear God, and speak His words to others.

1 Cor. 14:31:

"For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."

Here it says that all can prophesy, so that all may learn and be encouraged by God. In order to prophesy, or speak the word of God, we must first be able to hear Him. Even preaching new revelation requires being able to hear God correctly, even if

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we are just receiving His words/truths into our heart. Jesus was absolutely dependent upon the Father for every word He spoke.

John 14:10b:

“The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”

Since all of God’s words come from His attributes, the more attributes we have manifesting in our souls the more we will recognize God speaking to us in different ways, and the more often it will happen! His love has a voice, and that voice is Jesus!

Our physical ears can hear people, sounds, animals, and different noises from the world around us. Our spiritual ears can hear God, angels, demons, heavenly beings, and much more! One of the ways we can test if what we are hearing is from the Lord I learned from Smith Wigglesworth. He said that according to 1 John 4:1-3 we can test every voice that we hear spiritually, whether it is from God or not.

1 John 4:1-3:

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (2) By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, (3) and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

Whenever we hear a voice in our mind we can ask that voice, “Did Jesus Christ come in the flesh?” If it says “no,” then that voice is not from God. If the voice says “yes,” then it is from God. Demons cannot answer that question yes, so this has really helped me to better discern what I’m hearing. Another way to discern where the voice is coming from is through sensing what that voice releases into your soul. The voice of God releases His attributes, so if I’m sensing fear, anxiety, hopelessness, etc, then it is probably not the voice of God. God’s voice will always release

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love, peace, joy, courage, etc. These are easy ways to recognize God's voice. Really though, the more we exercise our sense of hearing, the more we will know His voice when He speaks. Just like we can know the voice of someone who calls, because we know the person well, even if we don't recognize the number.

Some of the things we can do to help improve our spiritual hearing is to ask God questions, and then wait for a response (see what comes into your heart or mind). Another is to ask Him for direction in certain situations like: God what should I do today? What part of the Bible do you want me to read? Should I accept that job offer? And so on. Our spiritual senses can be activated by faith and knowledge, so the more we understand how to use our senses the easier it will be. Also the more we expect God to answer us, the more we will hear God's answers to our questions. Hearing His voice can be very fun and necessary to help us stay in tune with His Spirit. As with all of the spiritual senses this is a life-long process in growing to sense the different manifestations of our Father's love for us.

Let me share a quick testimony with ya:

A few years ago when I was first beginning to see God work miracles, and do more supernatural things in my life, I had a really cool experience. I was beginning to learn a method of supernatural evangelism called a "Treasure Hunt." A treasure hunt is where we ask God to show us specific details of people that we are going to meet before we go out, and share God's love with them (evangelize). We then write these clues down, and go hunting for God's treasure, which is the people He has told us about. This is a radical and fun way to share God's love with people, and has led to me seeing so many lives radically transformed through the power of God's love! I highly recommend it! (A reference to the book on treasure hunting is at the end of this chapter)

So on this particular day I was supposed to be driving with a friend from Los Angeles to Redding, CA to start ministry school there. The Lord told me that before I went I should make a treasure hunt list. So I got out a piece of paper, and asked God to show me things about people that I would meet on the drive

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up there. All of a sudden this vision popped up in my mind of an older faded blue car pulling into a gas station. There were 3 guys inside the car, and I saw myself walking up to the car with my treasure hunt map.

In the vision I was showing them my map, and how God had given me clues for them. As I did this God began to tell me things about the guys. He told me that 1 of them was backslidden from God, and that the other 2 didn't really know Him yet. I shared these things with the guys in the car, and that the reason why I knew these things was because God loves them and wants to have a relationship with them (I began sharing the gospel with them). Then the vision stopped, and I came to. Whoa! I remember thinking that maybe I was just imagining it, but it was so clear that I decided if I saw an older faded blue car with 3 guys in it, that I would do exactly what I saw in the vision. (Remember God can speak through our imagination too)

My friend Maria came and picked me up. About 45 minutes down the freeway, she randomly went from driving pretty much the whole time in the fast lane, to moving all the way to the far right lane. Then all of a sudden we were coming up on an older faded blue car that was smoking in the emergency lane of the freeway. And guess what? A guy was sitting on top of the car as it rolled down the hill, and 2 guys were inside! I yelled to my friend, "That's my treasure!" And she pulled over really quick.

I got out and approached the guys. I began to tell them about the vision I had earlier, and showed them the specific details I had written down on the paper. It turns out the guy I was talking to admitted he was backslidden, and that the other 2 guys didn't really know the Lord personally yet. Maria also received some prophetic words from God for them as well. Then all 3 gave their lives to Jesus right there on the freeway! Yeah Jesus! Turns out the guy who was backslidden had fallen away from the Lord 3 years ago, and had recently been praying to God for a sign that He should come back to God (He was afraid of backsliding again). Well God certainly answered His prayer, and released such an amazing encounter with His love!! Praise Jesus!

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I think this is a good example of seeing and hearing what God is doing, and then acting upon it! These kinds of experiences, and so much more, can be normal for us as we learn to activate our spiritual senses! Well there's much more involved with hearing God's voice, so I highly recommend diving into some other resources on this. There are many great books on hearing God's voice, and I've included some at the end of this chapter. These can help you be more activated in hearing God. In the meantime let's do a quick activation now:

I want you to ask God some questions, and by faith expect that whatever comes into your mind is from Him (remember you have the mind of Christ!). I want you to ask God to show you, or tell you something that He thinks about you. Wait until you sense something. Ask Him if there's something He's been wanting you to know for a while, and wait to see what you hear. Ask Him if there's something He wants you to do today, and then whatever you sense from Him, do it. Whatever you experience just know that God wants you to experience so much more! We all have plenty of growing to do, so don't give up, for in God we grow from glory to glory!

Feeling

Next is the attribute of God's love that is Feeling! Love Feels.

1 Cor. 2:16 AMP:

“For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.”

Feeling is a real common way for many believers to experience God. Feeling does not just mean emotions, but anything that can be felt, or touched in any way (Feeling and the sense of Touch go hand in hand). Since most people experience emotions regularly, when God manifests the emotions (or desires) of His attributes, many people are receptive to sensing

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God in this way. Love is full of emotions, and the attributes of Feeling help enable us to experience these emotions. These attributes are actually what enable our spirit, soul, and body to be able to feel anything. Without them we could be completely numb to all feeling, both spiritual and physical. Even the body without the spirit is dead, so even our body is dependent on our soul to experience feelings.

So whether it be feeling joy in our heart, feeling the embrace of another, or feeling the smoothness of an apple, God's attribute of Feeling is what enables us to do this. (The attribute of Feeling combines with other attributes to help us experience the emotions/desires of those attributes. Which is partly how some can have knowledge of certain attributes, but not experience the emotions of the attributes- they need their sense of feeling to be activated more)

Prov. 15:13:

"A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken."

The emotions of our spirit and soul are what become the emotions of our body. His sense of feeling, or touching, is what also enables us to sense different things by being touched. Sure there are nerves in our body, but without the attributes of feeling combining with other attributes when God created them, nerves would not even exist. But what's more important than the nerves of our body, is to learn how to exercise our spiritual sense of feeling.

Feeling God is so important and necessary to walking as a child of God. God never goes a moment without experiencing infinite kinds of feelings, or emotions possible! He is eternally/always experiencing the thoughts, emotions, and motives of all of His attributes. Since we are one with Him, and created to be like Him, we should at least be beginning to experience these things too! I have heard a number of false religious teachings about not being emotional, people aren't spiritual when they act emotional, and even that all emotions are evil. Haha (I'm laughing at the

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powerless lies of the devil). What false religious garbage to try to keep us from experiencing God! God is the most emotional being in all of creation, and we were created to be like Him!

All of God's attributes of love are manifesting emotions continually, ceaselessly, and eternally. So if there is ever a time where we're not feeling His love at least to some degree, it's because we aren't walking in Him like we should be. Sure not every emotion is good, because many emotions come from the sin nature. But the good news is that all of our sinful emotions (or desires) were crucified with Christ! (Gal. 5:24)

So if there's any kind of wrong emotion we may experience, it's because that part of our soul still needs to be renewed into the image of God. I'm also not saying that we should always allow our emotions to dictate what we do. There is balance in things, but ultimately there are times where we should be driven by our godly emotions and desires! (see John 15:7)

Love is full of feelings, and these feelings are part of what help us be so delighted in obeying God. These feelings are also not always emotions. We can feel things from God that cause us to experience good thoughts, emotions, motives, and even do things in response to what we are feeling. Like feeling the gentle touch of God's Spirit on our back, can cause us to think good thoughts, and experience good emotions from that touch. This can lead us into desiring to be with Him more, which then motivates us to seek Him more. Without feelings love would be bland, boring, and even robotic.

Every time God touches us, we should feel some measure of His love in our being. If we are walking in the Spirit of God we should constantly be experiencing His love in various forms, expressions, and measures, including feelings. It is important for us to experience God through our other senses too, but feeling is definitely an important part of who God is.

I think that part of the reason why people have made wrong choices from being led by feelings is due to not using the other spiritual senses. Feelings were never meant to be the only way we experience love. We can see, hear, taste, smell, feel, and more, the

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love of God. If we only look to our feelings then that is wrong, but to never rely on our feelings is wrong too. I've also heard some people who haven't felt God very much say that it's just the way God made them, and they've learned to accept it. This is simply not true.

All of our spirits can see, hear, taste, feel, and smell God perfectly with no problems whatsoever. So if there's any lack on our part in these areas, it's probably because we need a greater manifestation of these attributes in our soul and body. The more activated our souls become in the different spiritual senses, the more we will sense God. A big part of these things is simply being taught the truths of God's love, and how He created us to live in Him. As we learn more of God's truths, then we need to put into practice what we learn, and we will begin to grow in the experience of those truths continually.

One of the ways to help people get activated in feeling God's presence is through what is called "presence evangelism." This takes place when you ask someone (believer or unbeliever, hence the evangelism part) if they want to feel God's presence. If they say yes, then you tell them to put out their hands. Then have them say, "Holy Spirit come." Often times they will begin to feel heat, tingling, pressure, joy, peace, or other manifestations on their hands/body. (Though sometimes you have to do it a few times. Also sometimes a person may not feel anything, but that's part of the risk of stepping out in faith: you don't always know what's gonna happen!) Many people have even gotten saved through encountering God like this! Wow!

In fact here's a testimony from a great friend of mine named Jason Chin:

"After a high school football game we were walking towards our car, and we noticed a group of teens sitting on a brick wall. We approached the group and started to share about some cool miracles we saw Jesus do tonight at the football game. We shared about a broken foot and a broken finger that was instantly healed. An emo styled girl blurts out aggressively "I am a pagan!" As her friends smirk, waiting for our rebuttal, we tell her, "That's

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ok. Jesus believes in you, and loves you just the same.” We ask her if she wants to “feel” God’s presence anyways. With a put off look she snaps “No!” She pauses for a moment with a look of I dare you. And then says “Yeah, go ahead”. So we ask her to hold her hands in front of her and say, “Holy Spirit come.” She says she feels “heat and tingling” in her hands. We tell her that she is feeling God, the Holy Spirit. She says she has arthritis in her hands, and a bad back. My friend prays for her back as she keeps opening and closing her fists. She bends over to check her back out, and blurts out a string of 4 letter cuss words from shock. After saying sorry for her outburst, she says that the knot that has been in her back for years is gone, and her hands feel loose and pain free! Two of her friends got instantly healed after prayer too. This girl who has now personally experienced God’s love, His presence, and His goodness towards her, now wants to ask Jesus to be her Lord and Savior. But not just her, this entire group of teens now prompted by this once “pagan” girl, all ask Jesus into their hearts!”

Wow, that’s awesome! Glory to God! What a great way to demonstrate God’s love, and help people come into His kingdom! So go ahead and test it out on yourself. Put your hands out and say “Holy Spirit come!”

Tasting

Now this is a spiritual sense you may or may not have heard much about. There is an attribute of love called Tasting. It’s also a pretty cool way to sense God! Love is tasty! Haha. The attributes of God can actually be tasted, and can taste differently. The Bible says:

Psalm 34:18:

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!”

Song of Sol. 1:2 NLT:

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“Kiss me again and again, for your love is sweeter than wine.”

Psalm 119:103:

“How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

Matt. 4:4:

“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”’

Wow! God tastes good! Since all of creation was created by the word of God, we can see some good examples of what God tastes like in His creation. Ever wonder why so many people love to eat good food? Because all of God’s creation, that is good, was created from His attributes of love, and these attributes are what give the food it’s flavor! Without God’s attributes manifesting in the creation nothing would taste good. So the next time you eat a good meal remember to thank God for sharing His delicious attributes with you! 😊 (Rom. 11:36) He also gave our bodies the ability to taste things through the attribute of Tasting. Many people get addicted to eating food because it is one of the ways that we can actually experience the love of God, even if people don’t realize it.

Psalm 136:25-26:

“Who gives food to all flesh, For His mercy endures forever. (26) Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.”

If earthly created things can taste that good, how much more do you think the purely spiritual and creative attributes of God taste? Hmm hmm good! Notice how the verses above said that His words are sweeter than honey, and are what we are to live by? His words impart His attributes, so we live by the good tasting attributes of His love!

I remember a few years ago one day I noticed this sweet, spiritual taste in my mouth. It was so good that my mouth was

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actually salivating, and yet I wasn't eating anything physical. I thought it was kind of odd, but at the same time really cool! I could actually taste God's love in my mouth! It tasted like there was a tangible presence of the Holy Spirit manifesting in my mouth, that tasted good, and reminded me of His love. (Not sure exactly how to explain it, you gotta taste Him for yourself!) There are many spiritual tastes that taste similar to things on the earth, because everything that tastes good in the earth receives it's flavor from the attributes of God. I didn't really know much about having a spiritual sense of taste back then, so it wasn't until about a couple years later that I started realizing what a blessing that was. Since that day I've tasted God's glory in my mouth often, and even in different ways.

Now when I say mouth what I mean is that I can literally sense/feel a spiritual taste/presence flowing from the Spirit/my spirit, through my soul, and into my body. The Spirit and our spirit, soul, and body overlap each other, so our spiritual mouth can overlap our physical mouth. I haven't always tasted it really strongly in my body to the point of salivating, but I have sensed it many times in my spirit and soul.

Not only that, but at times I've also tasted manifestations of sin. Yuck! Let me tell you that the more the spiritual sense of taste is activated in our lives to sense sin, the more motivation we will have to stay clear of it, because it does not taste good at all! I've tasted things as mildly yucky as putting a copper coin under your mouth, to things that literally made me wanna spit to get the taste out of my mouth, because it tasted so bad (and sometimes I would go spit). Ever hear someone say, "They put a bad taste in my mouth." Well sin does just that. This is also why the Bible says in Proverbs that foolishness is like vomit (Prov. 26:11). Sin can put a real bad taste in God's mouth!

There are so many good spiritual tastes for us to feast upon, and they are so much tastier than the things of this world. Since I don't really know much more on how to activate spiritual tastes, other than through the same ways you activate the other attributes, I'll say a quick prayer: "Lord activate our spiritual taste

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buds more so we can be filled with the delightful tastes of Your love!” (Keep it simple right?)

Smelling

Smelling is another attribute of God’s love. Love is fragrant.

Song of Sol. 1:3

“Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, Your name is ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins love you.”

2 Cor. 2:14:

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.”

The knowledge of God’s love gives off such a diversity of incredibly delightful fragrances. His attributes are the source of every good fragrance in the earth, in the heavens, and in all eternity! God smells really good, and without His good fragrances, nothing would smell good. It is the attributes of God’s Smelling that enable us to smell spirit, soul, and body. Since Christ lives in us we are continually releasing different fragrances of His nature into the spiritual realms as we abide in Him. These smells are wonderful, delightful, and full of glory! His fragrances don’t just smell good, but they are actually manifestations of His life and nature! When His fragrances are released, they carry the substance of the attributes of His life that are releasing them. When God manifests the fragrances of His glory you don’t just smell something good, but you encounter the glory of God that is released with that fragrance. (Like purity releasing a special fragrance that also imparts more purity into your soul) All of God’s attributes give off different fragrances. That’s why there’s so many different kinds of smells in the earth today. And there are infinite kinds of smells in God.

There are no limits to the different kinds of smells God can bring forth. We can smell things spiritually even with our

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bodies when God manifests His fragrances in the earth. But since our spiritual man is always releasing the fragrance of Christ everywhere we go, if our spiritual smell is activated, we can actually smell His fragrances all the time! Just like any of the other senses, the more they are activated in us, the more we will sense God all the time.

You can activate your spiritual smell by faith. Just simply realize that your spirit can smell, then ask God to help you begin to exercise this spiritual sense to smell the fragrance of Christ that is being released from you. Sometimes by faith I've just simply believed that I could smell His fragrance and would begin to smell the spiritual "air" around me. Sometimes I would smell some kind of delightful/spiritual fragrance, other times not. At times the fragrance would be really strong, and other times kind of faint. There have even been times where God manifested a heavenly fragrance among a group of people, where everyone could smell it.

One of these times I was in ministry school, and all of a sudden this very thick fragrance of peppermint began to pervade the atmosphere. I looked over, and my friend sitting next to me could smell it too. It was so strong I could literally taste it in my mouth. Then a person in front of us turns around and says, "Do you guys smell that?" And we said, "Yes." A whole bunch of people around us could smell it as well, and we could all tell that it was from the Lord! (We were experiencing a tangible manifestation of God through that fragrance) Praise God!

Like all of our senses, we need to exercise them by faith to experience them more. Simply being persistent in asking God to help you smell things spiritually, can also help greatly as well.

Another Activation

I'm wondering if you noticed that I didn't share much on how these attributes can help produce desires, motives, thoughts, words, ways, and works. I did this because I felt it's important for you to also learn how to receive these revelations from the Lord

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for yourself. I did not realize how much every attribute of God can help us experience Him, until I learned more about how they are all found in His love. A huge part of recognizing how these things work is by realizing that the attributes of God depend on one another to manifest the different expressions of God. They never manifest alone, or apart from the other attributes. As we've gone over before every time His love manifests, all the other attributes are present, it's just that some may be less visible than others/are inactive. So instead of me sharing how this happens with all the senses, what I wanted was for you to ask the Lord how the attributes of seeing, hearing, tasting, feeling, and smelling can help produce these different things in us (thoughts, desires, motives, words, ways, and works). To help you out we'll go over a little bit of seeing together.

Every time we see something we can instantly have thoughts about what we are seeing. We can also have emotions that are spurred by what we see. Like seeing a picture of a starving kid in Africa can cause a splur of emotions to spring up in our hearts. What we see can also motivate us to want to do something about what we are seeing. Like wanting to offer some sort of help for that child in Africa. This can then bring forth the works, and/or words, of God as we are moved to action by what we've seen. When we look at things we don't just see. We see with intentions, with motives, with desires, with thoughts, with perspectives, and so forth. What we see can cause us to respond, or even react, in different ways, to bring forth different works. All of which are assisted by the attribute of seeing combing with the other attributes of God's love!

Okay now you do the rest: Hearing, Feeling, Tasting, and Smelling!

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Last Points

Some last points: If God has senses like this, how do His senses function? Every part of His being is alive, full of His attributes, and can think, desire, etc. Earlier we saw that in Proverbs 15:3 that God's eyes are everywhere, revealing that He has infinite eyes through which He can see all things throughout all eternity, and in His creation. If His eyes are everywhere, meaning that God's eyes are omnipresent, does that also mean that every part of His being can see? And if every part of His being can see, then do you think the other senses are active through His whole being as well?

Remember God is Spirit, and the spiritual realities are/ can be much different from earthly realities. We are created in the image of God, are one in spirit/Spirit with Him, and are His spiritual children. So then, how active are the spiritual senses in our spiritual man right now? How much of our spirit can see, hear, taste, feel, and smell? I have learned through personal experience that our spiritual man is experiencing far more incredible things right now than many are even aware of. Glory to God! For with God nothing shall be impossible! Let us seek to understand things from a spiritual/supernatural perspective according to the mind of God, and not according to the natural, earthly mind. 😊

Further Reading:

The Ultimate Treasure Hunt by Kevin Dedmon

The School of the Seers by Jonathan Welton

You May All Prophecy by Kevin Thompson

Basic Training for the Prophetic Ministry by Kris Vallotton

For more from Jason Chin check out www.lovesaysgo.com

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Chapter 12

Encountering God's Love

So now we get to put a little bit of what we learned into practice to help us encounter God even more. This to me is such a dearly important part to learning how to experience God in practical ways that can change our lives! By actively engaging our spiritual senses with God, and in the spiritual realms around us, we can grow so much easier in the Lord!

Heb. 5:14:

“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Here Paul is saying that the spiritually mature are those who have exercised their different spiritual senses enough to know the difference between good and evil. Every one of our senses can help us experience God more, and can also help us to discern what's not from God. It is absolutely necessary for us to have our spiritual senses activated in order for us to fully experience God in the ways that He wants us to. It is not wisdom for us to allow any lack of experience in these areas to keep us from pursuing a deeper level of spiritual sensing. There is no good reason for us not too, and many good reasons for us to desire for God to open up our senses more. Paul says maturity is marked by a person that has been trained in their spiritual senses.

When we exercise our physical bodies it can be a bit of a process for us to get to the place where we want to be in our

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physical strength. Since God's senses are infinite in measure, there is no end to how much we can grow in our spiritual senses! Our spiritual senses are also a vital way to discern truth. Since God's truths are infinite in measure, and the Bible only contains a tiny portion of these truths, we must also learn to rely on our spiritual senses to discern truth from lies. The Bible can certainly help, but without being able to sense God's Spirit communicating with us we won't even be able to discern the Bible very well, let alone all the other revelations of God that aren't found in the Bible.

There are many ways to exercise our spiritual senses, many, many more than I currently know. But there are some real practical ways that have helped me encounter God on a regular basis. One of the major ways is by using my senses to interact with Jesus face to face, or person to person. What I mean by this is that I have had many personal encounters with Jesus through exercising my spiritual senses to interact with Him. Jesus is omnipresent, and as we covered before everything actually exists within His presence. Some have erroneously said things about Jesus and the Father being in heaven, but only the Holy Spirit is on the earth. In a sense this is true, but the reality is that all 3 are everywhere! God cannot be separated from Himself, so wherever the Holy Spirit is, Jesus and the Father are too. When Jesus lives in us, so does the Holy Spirit and the Father.

John 17:23:

"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."

Rom. 8:9:

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

The Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit all live in us! And they live everywhere else. Jesus is above, below, next to, in, and

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all around you! Wherever you go Jesus is there. So if there's ever a time where we don't see, hear, taste, feel, or smell Him, it's because we're not interacting with Him like we should be. Now I realize that this is a process, but by humbling ourselves and seeking God's help in these areas, He will always abundantly meet us with His grace! He loves for us to encounter Him. Jesus bore the curse of being separated from God on the cross so that we would never have to experience that! We were created to walk like Jesus.

John 14:12:

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

Where are You Jesus?

Many people are trying to do the works of Christ without walking in an intimacy with the Father that reflects what Jesus had. We cannot do the works that Jesus did, and greater, without having a similar relationship to the Father that Jesus had! It is impossible! Jesus said He could always see and hear the Father in many ways (John 5:19-20, 8:26). I'm certain He could always feel, taste, and smell Him as well. For us to go our entire Christian life without hearing and seeing God would be very sad, especially considering what Jesus went through so that we could know Him in these ways!

Since God is present everywhere, the moment I turn my heart and senses towards Him, I can begin to interact with Him right now. The Lord showed me this some time ago. He showed me that if I would just turn my heart to Him in expectation and faith, I could sense Him by me at any time. Not just in me (though that's true for experiencing Him in us too), but also around me. When I first started exercising my spiritual senses to encounter God like this I would often ask Jesus things like, "Where are you in the room?" Suddenly my heart would be drawn to a specific

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area in the room/place where I was. Then I would begin to sense Him there. At times I could see Him really clearly. Other times I would more hear or feel His person there. I noticed that as long as I was willing to believe and turn my heart to Him I could sense Him there at pretty much any time. How exhilarating!

Before this I used to mostly feel God's presence. Then I began to learn to hear His voice, but it felt more like God was up in heaven speaking to me while I was on the earth. It felt like there was a gap between us, and I didn't really know that it was normal for me to always see who was talking to me. Then I began to learn how to encounter God through visions, or seeing. This took things to whole new levels! The Lord showed me that through practicing this any believer can interact with Him person to person, anytime, anywhere we go! And the more we exercise our senses the easier it is for us to see, hear, taste, smell, and feel Him in these ways!

During these encounters I would begin to talk with Jesus just like I would talk with a normal person. Face to face, person to person. The more I practiced the easier it became to see Him more clearly, and more often. There is so much more revelation and experiences that come from being able to see Him, versus just feeling and hearing. By me being able to see Jesus as He would talk, preach, teach, love, share, fellowship, laugh, joke, correct, or even at times be angry with me, has been very life transforming! Jesus is so incredible!

What I mean by seeing Jesus is that I could see Him with my spiritual senses. There are different levels of manifestation of our spiritual senses. There are also differences in seeing spirit, soul, and body. As well as different realms or dimensions that we can see into. What I am talking about here is that I was sensing God with the Spirit/my spirit, and my soul, which would also imprint upon my body/mind (or through the eyes of my heart that we talked about last chapter Eph. 1:18).

In these experiences I wouldn't necessarily see Jesus manifest in full form in the earth like He did in Acts 9 to Paul, or in Revelation 1 to John. These were what many call "open

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visions,” or “visitations.” We can also have those too. Right now I’m referring more to the internal/external visions that manifest in the mind of our souls, that we can see like pictures, or movies in our mind’s eye (the eyes of our heart). These visions can be very clear, or not so clear, and can even at times be compared to imaginations. Remember that every good thought and imagination comes from God. So even if we’re not sure whether something is a vision, or an imagination, if it’s good the source of it is God. Open visions are something we can see perfectly clearly, and at times can even be seen by others. For now we may see in part, but the more we are filled with God’s love, the more perfectly we will see in different ways (1 Cor. 13:12).

There are also differences between revelations, encounters, visitations, and habitations. (These differences are based on the beliefs of many different believers, and the classifications they’ve made to help define things more clearly for people when it comes to different kinds of spiritual experiences) Let’s take spiritual sight for example.

When it comes to seeing, a revelation could be something like a brief picture of what an angel, heaven, or Jesus looks like. I see the picture of Jesus in my soul/heart, and get a brief revelation of Him. An encounter can happen when you begin to experience and interact with Jesus on a visionary level for an extended period of time. A visitation can be when Jesus appears to you in a manifested form to where you can see Him perfectly, like when He appeared to John in Revelation 1. A habitation with spiritual sight can take place when you can now see Jesus, or angels, perfectly clearly all the time. (I say angels and Jesus because they both can be seen through these methods though I am focusing more on seeing God right now. There are many other things we can see in God like this as well, including seeing into heaven.)

There are also different dimensions around us. There are the dimensions of the eternal Spirit of God (where God lives eternally), the dimensions of the kingdom of heaven (where God is enthroned), the dimensions of the earth/universe (God’s

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footstool), and the realm of darkness (where the demons dwell). The first 3 realms overlap each other, which means that even while on the earth we can begin to see into these different realms. The realm of God's eternal Spirit is the biggest of them all, for it is what all things were created from (Psalm 104:30, Rom. 11:36). Jesus said that the kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:15), that it has come upon us, (Matt. 12:28) and is within us (Luke 17:21).

Which means that the kingdom of God is all around us, it's simply in another realm, or dimension. Some have wrongly thought that heaven is only above us. Yes, Heaven is above us, but it is also all around us, and even inside of us, it's just in another realm/dimension. (Also if you think about it with some wisdom too, since the earth rotates constantly if heaven was above you at 12 pm, it would be below you at 12 am 😊) Because we are one with God, He can enable us to sense (or see into) these realms at any time through His divine attributes. While Jesus was on the earth He said to Nathaniel:

John 1:51:

“And He said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’”

Encountering God Through Visions

What I am teaching on right now is encountering Jesus on a visionary level either in the realms of the earth, His Spirit, or in the kingdom of heaven. In this level you can also hear, feel, smell, and taste Him, but these are generally on a lesser degree than a visitation. Many of the experiences recorded in the Bible are visitations, but there are also encounter level visions as well. At times it can be challenging to tell which one took place because the Bible will simply say that someone had a vision, but it doesn't say what level of vision. Here are a number of examples just from the book of Acts, though there are many more throughout the Bible.

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Acts 9:10-12:

*“Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; **and to him the Lord said in a vision, ‘Ananias.’** And he said, ‘Here I am Lord.’ (11) So the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. (12) **And in a vision** he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.”*

Acts 10: 3

*“About the ninth hour of the day **he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God** coming in and saying to him, ‘Cornelius!’”*

Acts 11: 5

*“I was in the city of Joppa praying; and **in a trance I saw a vision**, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me.”*

Acts 12:9:

*“So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, **but thought he was seeing a vision.**”*

Acts 16:9:

*“**And a vision appeared to Paul in the night.** A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’”*

Acts 18:9-10:

*“**Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision,** ‘Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; (10) for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.’” (Boldness added on all these verses)*

Wow! Now it's pretty clear to me that there are a variety of visionary experiences taking place here. I'll share some quick points on these experiences in the order listed above. Notice how it says the Lord spoke some really specific things to Ananias

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in a vision, but it doesn't say if the Lord appeared to him, if he saw this vision in His mind, or what happened (seems similar to the vision I had of the three guys and the blue car). Paul also had a similar vision. At this time Paul was blinded from the visitation he had with Jesus on the road to Damascus, so this was probably an internal vision. These sound to me like they both had encounter level visions from God, where God shared some pretty important revelation with them through using the spiritual eyes of their heart.

Next Cornelius saw a clear vision of an angel. This is suggestive of a visitation, because it was more clear, and was an outward vision. Peter fell into a trance, and then saw the heavens open as a blanket fell to the earth. Peter saw into heaven, but how clearly? It doesn't say, but it sounds like it was pretty clear, possibly suggesting a visitation level experience, or an "open vision." The next experience Peter was led by an angel out of the jail he was in, and thought that he was seeing a vision! This shows how real a visionary experience can be.

Then Paul has a vision of a man speaking to him, and a vision of the Lord speaking to him. It does not say if it was an encounter, visitation, habitation, or? At least one, if not both, were probably encounter level visions, and yet were very helpful for him. There are many accounts of these things happening in the book of Acts, and throughout the whole Bible. By looking at these examples we can also see how extremely important visions, revelations, encounters, visitations, and more are to the daily life of a believer.

Our spirit can see God perfectly, but our soul and body are learning to see God. So when our spiritual sight begins to manifest in our soul, often times it can come in partially, and imprints that part upon our body as well (on the screen of our mind). This is also why some people might mistake what they are seeing as an imagination. Our soul is supposed to see in the spiritual realm just like our spirit, but it has much catching up to do. When the images that our spirit is seeing manifest into our soul it can be a really clear vision, or it can almost seem like

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there's parts missing to what we are seeing, because it's not real clear the whole time. This can happen due to needing to exercise our senses more, a need for more of God's love/senses in our soul, or from wrong mindsets.

At times you might even feel like you're just making it up, or imagining things. Just because you don't see things perfectly doesn't mean it's not real. Paul says to fix our eyes on what is eternal (2 Cor. 4:18). The realms of God/heaven around us are more real than the earth we dwell on. We need to look with the eyes of our heart to see into the eternal realms around us. As I said before even if it is an imagination, all of our good imaginations come from the attributes of God, so God can speak to us very clearly and gloriously through a sanctified imagination! In fact if you look at the examples above, I'm sure that you can see that some of those visions could have been mistaken for their own imaginations if they didn't know it was from the Lord! The more we allow these attributes/senses to function through our soul and body, the more clearly we will experience God, and the supernatural realms around us.

Jesus Loves to Encounter US!

Exercising my senses in these ways to encounter Jesus has helped me experience Him in so many new ways, and helped me be so much closer to Him! There have been times where I would wake up and almost immediately see Jesus standing next to me with a big smile on His face, and with His love emanating from His being towards me! Now that's a much better way to wake up than having some Folger's coffee in your cup! Haha. There are also times that as we were talking He would start preaching a sermon to me! Wow! Jesus is so animated and funny when He preaches, and no one can preach better than Him! He is glorious! (It also helped me see why so many preachers can be so animated, Christ in us the hope of glory!)

Other times I've been lying on the ground when He would come and touch Me. As He did so I would sense His loving flowing

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through my being, and then He would often impart revelations into my heart during this time. These kinds of experiences have also often led me into visionary trances from God (Acts 10:10, 22:17). I would lay there basking in the glory of these revelations while still sensing His love emanating from Him standing next to me! Other times Jesus and I would read the Bible together, and He would expound on different Scriptures as I would read. Talk about hearing the Living Word!

We've even gone jogging together, and He's done some pretty wild stuff while doing so! He would encourage/push me to do things I felt uncomfortable doing, like jumping over fire hydrants, doing random zig-zags, or even waiving at people driving by. He was helping me get set free from the fear of man, and being so concerned about what other people think. Life was meant to be enjoyed, and not restricted to what other people think is acceptable. Other times Jesus has given me specific direction for my life through these visions, similar to what you saw in the previous verses. It is amazing what can happen as we learn to live spiritual lives with God!

It is these kinds of experiences, and more, that have helped me to be so much more intimate with Him! Jesus is infinitely, immensely, and gloriously desiring for us to experience His love for us! He is not just the desire of all nations, He is the Desirer of all the nations! He is simply waiting for us to respond to His open invitations to experience Him at any, and all times. He is truly the best Teacher, Friend, Brother, Lover, King, Savior, Servant, and more! He is the all in all! Praise God for His wonderful love towards all His children, for He loves us all equally! There is no one greater or less than, in His eyes. All of His children are equally loved, valued, appreciated, treasured, and more! For He shows personal favoritism to no man (Rom. 2:11 NIV). Remember that God loves us with a love that seeks our highest good! Part of that highest good includes being able to see, hear, taste, feel, and smell the God of all goodness at all times, and in many ways!

Here are a few testimonies of visionary experiences with the Lord. The first one is an encounter that I had wrote down a bit

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ago that has some really great revelations to fit in with what we've been going over here. I edited it a little to help explain things more, and took out some things that happened that were really personal to me. The whole encounter actually lasted for hours, and it was spread out over a number of different experiences I had throughout the day. As I said before if we turn our heart to God at any moment, we can begin to sense and encounter Him. So this can happen multiple times in a day, and even potentially the whole day. (By the way when I mention that Jesus was talking to me in heaven, I mean that I was seeing Him in the realm of the kingdom of God that overlaps the realms of the earth. I was still in my body on my bed, but I was seeing into the dimension of the kingdom around me, see John 1:51)

“Today I woke up and almost immediately Jesus was next to me, and we were having a conversation in the realm of heaven. He told me that I am awesome! Haha. I said, “Thank You, You're awesome too.” He told me that He loves my eyes, and how they can see Him. He said my eyes are beautiful. Ahhh, how nice (Jesus is my Lover you know). Then He said that I'm His friend, and I told Him that He's my friend too. We were just hanging out, having a good time together, and I'm starting to have more conversations with God. I realized that I don't really do that a lot. (Just hang out and talk with Him, without having to do something “spectacular” or ministry related)

Even at the beginning of our encounter I started asking Him what He wanted to do today, and He said He just wanted to be with me. I don't have to do anything to be Jesus' friend, we can just hang out together and have fun, that's what friends do. I need to learn how to be, without needing to do anything. I was thinking how Jesus and Paul spent a lot of time being, before beginning their ministries. (As far as I know Paul spent the first 10-15 years without going on missionary journeys, and Jesus waited for 30 years to grow in intimacy with His Father before beginning His ministry).

Then Jesus showed me a map of the world, and asked me which country I wanted to see what He was doing in. So I picked

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Algeria. Then this kind of movie like vision began to play of these odd looking caterpillar type bugs everywhere. Then one of them turned into a cocoon, and became a glorious butterfly. This butterfly went around touching other caterpillars. Then they would become cocoons, and then butterflies. Beautiful butterflies were springing up all over. Jesus said that He's awakening the dreamers in Algeria. He also told/showed me that the land in Algeria would be healed as the sons & daughters of God rise up in that nation, and that rain would be more abundant in that nation (wasn't time specific about this, but I felt it wouldn't be too long into the future).

During the encounter the Lord showed me that He created us to be with Him, to be His friends, etc. In heaven we will be hanging out experiencing Him, and doing all kinds of things together for all eternity. Adam and Eve were the same way. They walked with God in the cool of the day, and had face to face fellowship together. They weren't out trying to save the world, and doing a bunch of stuff. They were enjoying just being with God. That's the way God intended it from the beginning. Right now we are in the process of bridging the gap between what was, and what will be, while experiencing Him today.

While sitting at the computer reading the Bible, Jesus was standing next to me, and we were talking and enjoying each other! He was reading the Scriptures to me and pointing out some really good revelations! Wow! What an awesome time we had reading the Bible together! I got so much out of it, and really enjoyed conversing and interacting with Jesus while doing it. At one point He was rubbing my back, and I could feel His love kind of like pulsating over and in my back. Ahhh, You're so GOOD! While worshipping Jesus He was messing with me. I was dancing with a joking attitude of I could dance better than you Jesus, and all of a sudden He did these tricked out supernatural b-boy moves and popped up. Then I was like "Yeah, well grrrr," and kind of flexed my muscles at Him. Then He turned into a bunch of Jesus' all doing the same thing back at me! Hahaha! What a

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day! Jesus and I have been having so much fun together...I love You Jesus, Father, Holy Spirit! Let's do this every day! Hahaha.”

Here is another testimony I recently heard from a man named Terry Bennett. Terry had a very encouraging prophetic vision from God where Jesus and satan were playing a card game:

“In this (vision) it was pictured as a game, but I knew it was anything but a game. In this (vision) satan had all his various card hands, that were winning hands, laid out. And he was preparing to play his hand, and hands. When the Lord sitting across the table looked over at him and said, “I'll go first.” So the Lord laid a card on the table, one card, that trumped the hand that satan was about to play. Now satan was still going to play his hand, but God had already trumped it. The Lord said to satan after He put the trump card down, “Now deal with that.” So then every hand that satan prepared to play, and he was going to play out all of his hands at this time, God would firstly trump it.

Then the Lord said this to me, I found it to be very encouraging, He said, “If the body of Christ will align itself to My heart in this, I will release for the asking the Spirit of wisdom to My people.” He said, “Remember this: the Spirit of wisdom carries with it the Spirit of discovery.” And there are things that God is going to allow to be discovered that have never been discovered by the body of Christ, through the members of the body of Christ. Secondly He said, “Also the Spirit of innovativeness and inventiveness would be released.” He also told me that He would release the Spirit of creativity in and through His people again. And finally the entrepreneurial Spirit. All being a part of the Spirit of wisdom.

I took great courage in this that I understood the Spirit of wisdom to be a part of the trump card that God was playing. Even though the enemy would play his hands, nevertheless God would trump that, and a part of that trump was His Spirit of wisdom operating in and through His people. I think we can take great encouragement from the Lord in this. No matter what is happening in the various regions and nations of the earth, God

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is waiting for us to ask Him for the Spirit of wisdom and He will freely give it to all men, if we'll ask Him.”

Wow! That's cool, God always wins! A couple notes to this is that this was a prophetic vision given to Terry about God trumping the plans of the enemy that he is going to try to play against the Lord (and His people). No matter what kind of plans the enemy has, God is going to thwart them! Also when the Lord is saying the Spirit of wisdom, creativity, entrepreneurship, etc, He is simply explaining that these are different ways that His Spirit is going to be manifesting through believers to help them in the days ahead, if we will ask Him for help. God is the source of all good creativity, wisdom, business, and more, so this is a great promise for those who will seek His face!

Here's another cool testimony from a great friend of mine, Chuck Parry, who had a visitation of the Lord one day where He was taken to heaven:

“One morning I was worshipping the Lord on my knees with my face bowed to the ground. I was experiencing His Presence so strongly, when suddenly my surroundings vanished and Heaven opened up all around me. I found myself before the Throne of God in all its Glory. I saw the beauty, the splendor, the glory, and the amazing colors that surrounded the Throne, as well as the radiance of the One on the Throne. I felt a holy terror pass through me and I noticed I was trembling and shaking, and though I peeked, I dared not get up off my face.

Then Jesus stood up from the Throne and extended a sword toward me that shot out from His hand like a blue-white laser-beam of light, reminding me of a light saber from Star Wars. It reached me and touched me, and it was as if I were being knighted. I felt something awesome go through me, and I stayed in that state for a while, experiencing intense peace and pleasure.

Then I looked up at Jesus, and He had His head cocked to one side a little, with a funny grin on His face and a twinkle in His eye, looking almost mischievous. I slowly stood up and looked at Him. It was as if He were waiting for me to ask Him something, like He was saying: “Come on! I know you want

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it." I looked at the sword (I really like swords) and at Him, and asked: "Can I try it?" I was astonished and delighted as He held it out toward me! I took it and suddenly it was like a fire hose in my hands under full pressure, pulling me this way and that. He laughed and laughed as I struggled to control it, and I finally got it to settle down for me.

The scene shifted and I saw a group of black-shadow people stuck in a miry bog with a grey stringy glue-like substance pulling them down into the slime. Jesus said to me: "This works on such as these," pointing to the sword and then to the people stuck in the slime. I took the sword I had barely mastered and swung at one of the people to cut him free from the gluey stuff, but the sword was still a little unwieldy and it sliced right through his neck, looking like it had severed his head. "Aaarghh!" I freaked. I felt totally irresponsible using a weapon that was way out of my league.

Jesus said it was no problem, and as I looked more closely I saw the man stand up, completely whole and free and full of life and color! So I started hacking at the others, and though it looked at first like mutilation, each one emerged free and whole! Jesus was cheering me on as I did this, and as I returned to this realm, I felt as if He had given me a tool and a commission to do a work for Him. I'm still not sure how it will all play out, but I've experienced some victory and success with it and it's exciting to be a part of--and it's a really cool sword."*6

Wow! Isn't that awesome! God is so good! If you notice in these testimonies Jesus is revealing Himself as a Friend, Brother, King, and more. God is a real person who thinks in relational ways. He isn't just some spiritual being that's so holy no one can ever come close to Him, approach Him, or please Him. Every manifestation of good relationships that we have on earth are a reflection of the nature of Christ in us. So when we give each other high-5's, hugs, tell each other good job, wrestle around or play together, make jokes, or even when children sit on their father's lap, these are all expressions of the nature of God in us (and so many other "normal" life experiences). And it is also

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only because of His good attributes working in us that we can do these things.

Now don't get me wrong, God is a holy God, but all of His holiness is found inside of His extremely extravagant love that desires every single one of us to have the most wonderful, intimate, friendly, obedient, funny, and glorious relationship with Him that we could possibly have!! He's not just up there, He's in you, and all around you! So there's no good reason for us not to interact with Him as a living person, at any and all times. That's what we were created for and will be experiencing for all eternity!

Also, what level of experiences were these visions? Were they encounters, or visitations, or? Mine was an encounter, Chuck's was a visitation, and Terry doesn't say what level his vision was, but would you have known the difference if I hadn't told you? All of them were real, so even if we don't see things perfectly, that doesn't mean that it's less real, or less important. I think many people pass up activating their spiritual senses to encounter Jesus, simply because it's not a visitation level experience. We do live by faith in many ways, and this faith can help us to see God now, even if it's not always perfectly clear. So before we go on why not give it a shot yourself. Go ahead and ask God to show you where He is in the room. Wherever you sense Him, begin to interact with Him like He is really there, because He is. Take as much time as you want, and do this as often as possible/you're lead to!

Tips for Seeing Jesus

Hopefully you just had a really awesome encounter with God! And there are infinite more awaiting us all! Halleluiah! If you're having trouble seeing Him don't give up, it does take practice. It would not be wise to go to the gym the first time expecting to run 50 miles on the treadmill, and then give up completely if you don't. Thank God for whatever you do experience, and continue to exercise your senses. Remember

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that we can activate our spiritual senses by faith, knowledge, understanding, and more.

Some good practical ways to help see Jesus is to read Scriptures in the Bible that describe what He looks like (like Rev. 1:9-20, 19:11-16). You could also watch videos, or movies that have Jesus in them. Also listening to testimonies of people who have seen Him describe what He looks like can help as well. Remember that Jesus can appear in any form He wants to, glorified, or looking like a man. There are a number of different ways that Jesus appeared in the Bible, even as a man. After He was resurrected Mary and His disciples did not recognize Him multiple times. Meaning that Jesus would change the way He looked when He appeared to them (see John 20:11-17, 21:4-7; Luke 24:13-32). He created man in His image so He can appear to look like any man He wants to. I say this so that you don't think wrongly in believing that there's only one real picture of what Jesus looks like. That's absolutely not true! Jesus can appear in many, many forms, so don't limit Him in the ways He appears to you! And if it's not Jesus, but our wrong perception of Him, then He can correct us on that too.

I hope you are really excited to experientially know God more! I know I am. Practicing these things on a regular basis is a huge part of growing in our spiritual senses. A professional baseball player usually doesn't start hitting home runs, and running top speed, the first time he plays a game. To become trained in something it can take much practice, and a willingness not to give up. We are ever growing in the things of God, and it is His love that brings us into deeper experiences with Him. But that doesn't mean that we don't have a part to play as well!

We have to choose to obey God, and interact with Him, if we want to experience Him. He gives us free choice every day of how much we will believe and obey Him. Some may think that God isn't always talking to us, so we don't get to decide when to talk with God. That's such a false perception of Him! It says His thoughts towards us outnumber the sand on the seashore! Really God has endless thoughts of continual love towards every

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one of His children. Words are simply spoken thoughts, so that means He also has infinitely good things to say to us! We just need to stop trying to be so in control of everything, let go, take some time, and turn our hearts to Him, so we can hear what He's already been wanting to tell us all along. Let your soul be still before God so that He can speak to you, and show Himself to you. James 4:8 NIV "Come near to God and he will come near to you." This is a promise of God that He will ALWAYS come near to those who draw near to Him.

Matt. 28:20b NIV:

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

God is with us everywhere we go, so if we're not experiencing that reality in many ways, it's not His fault. Ignorance is not an attribute of God, so it is impossible for Him to ever ignore any of His children when we want to talk with Him! He may change the ways that He is speaking to us, but He never stops speaking, and being available for us to interact with Him. Remember He is present everywhere, so no matter where you go He's there with you, and desiring you to know Him more deeply.

When I really started learning how to encounter God in some of the ways I've shared in this chapter, the Lord told me to start exercising my senses to encounter Him like this for at least 1 hour a day. During that time I would interact with Jesus with my spiritual senses through the ways described above. I would ask Jesus where He is in the room, and wherever I sensed Him to be I would begin to interact with Him. There were many times that were very glorious and amazing! Yet there were also times where it was a real struggle, and I would be upset because I wasn't experiencing Him like I wanted to. At times I would be really frustrated about it.

Many of us have been taught for most of our lives how to live as earthly, human beings who don't have spiritual senses. So much of the problems with unbelief come in the natural thinking that tries to tell people that unless you see it with the eyes of your body, then it's not real. There are many things similar to

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this lie that people believe, which can cause it to be challenging to exercise your senses at times. It's the same kind of principle in working out your physical body. If you've been a big couch potato all your life even walking up 15 stairs could cause you to be short of breath. Well going for 20+ years without activating all your spiritual senses can be quite a process to really get things going! God can bring instantaneous breakthrough to help you, and I really hope He does, but no matter where you're at it is a process for everyone.

One of the biggest keys in all of this though, is that the more we realize how much God loves us, how greatly He desires for us to experience Him more, and how easy it is for Him to help us to do so, the more we will experience His love for us. This applies to activating our spiritual senses, discovering the attributes of God, receiving revelation, and any other kind of experience we can have with Him. And as a general principle, the more difficult/challenging we think it is to experience God, often times, the less we will experience God. God responds to an open, humble, and child-like heart of faith much more than He does to a resistant heart of unbelief. The good news is that God crucified all our doubt and unbelief to the cross so that we could live in His faith! (Gal. 2:20)

Children are such great examples for having simple faith in God. Often times children can experience these things so easily. Children will often get their senses activated almost instantly, and even to see perfectly into the realms of the kingdom because of their pure hearts of faith!

Matt. 5:8:

"Blessed are the pure in heart, For they will see God."

Luke 18:17:

"Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

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Psalms 11:7 NIV:

“For the LORD is righteous, He loves justice; upright men will see his face.”

Num. 12:7-8:

“Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. (8) I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?”

Let us become like little children in heart that we may see God, and experience His kingdom! It is well worth humbling ourselves to do so! Here it says that upright men WILL see His face, meaning it's guaranteed for us to see God if we are righteous. If God spoke to Moses face to face on a daily basis, how much more should we?! Some people may struggle more than others, but the reality is that we will all have to fight against unbelief, doubt, frustration, wrong mindsets, and other things as we grow in our walk with the Lord. That doesn't mean we have to give in, but it does mean that we have to learn to overcome these things.

We walk by faith to sense God, until our senses become more trained, and then we can sense God more perfectly (though we still walk by faith in all the other areas that we don't sense Him perfectly yet). There are many levels and dimensions to these things, so it is a continual process. God can help us, but we also need to do our part, and spend time with Him. There is no magic formula I can give you for experiencing God. But knowing that He loves you, is immensely desiring you to experience His love at all times, and that it's all because of His gracious love that immensely desires you at all times, is a great place to start! It is all because of His great love for us that we are able to experience a single manifestation of His glory! So let's depend on Him, and continue to pursue the infinite possible expressions of the nature of His love!!!

Before ending why not take some more time and act upon the things we just went over. Take some time to exercise your

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spiritual senses to encounter God. Interact with Him in whatever ways you feel led. Be creative, and think outside the box! Thank God for whatever He does with you. Also feel free to pray and ask God if He wants you to do things like this more often. Even if it's challenging at times, be dedicated in seeking to exercise your senses. Also remember that there are infinite ways for the different senses to manifest, so if God wants to teach you different ways to experience Him than these, go for it! The Lord can show you much greater keys to experiencing Him than the ones in these chapters. Your breakthrough is our breakthrough, so every time you grow in the experiential knowledge of God, it can impact many more lives to come!!

Don't Be Religious

In the midst of such glorious and awesome experiences with God, it seems like there are always at least a good portion of believers who choose to reject what God is doing, and even falsely try to cast it off as being from the devil. It is quite astonishing to me how many believers will reject such simple, common, and basic spiritual truths like these. It is also very sad to me as well.

God so greatly, intensely, and immensely longs for us to know Him more! If the Bible says that Moses talked with God face to face (Ex. 33:11), and this often happened daily, how much more should we?! Don't reject something just because you may not have experienced it before. We are all in a process of learning the infinite truths of God. This whole book is like kindergarten, or 1st grade level learning in a school that has no end. So if you're struggling in believing in God for simple things like this, then there could be quite a bit more work ahead of you! Every single one of us was created to experience God in such glorious ways, and yet we know so little of what God has made available to us now.

Consider this: Most people in the USA (and many other countries as well) go through about 12 years of grade school, and then 4-7 years of college just to learn how to do basic earthly

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things, and have a career in one department of life. That's 16+ years of schooling just to have enough knowledge for one department of earthly living! There are probably over 1,000's of different careers that would require many more years of learning just to understand the basic knowledge of how to do those jobs. And yet there are believers who go to a 4-7 year seminary school, or sit under some leader's ministry for a few years, and all the sudden they think they are experts in the knowledge of God, and act like they have experienced "all there is to experience of God for now!" How arrogant, and ignorant! If there is that much earthly knowledge out there, how much more knowledge is there of eternal and heavenly things?! God is an infinitely infinite God who created the heavens and the universe with His hands!! How many more years of learning basic spiritual knowledge do you think we need to even begin to truly comprehend the vastness of the eternally infinite God?!

Now what would you think if you went to a church where the leader there was saying, "Listen, God never taught me how to build a car, so that means cars are from the devil! Also he never taught me how to fly an airplane, invent the internet, or use a cell phone. That means that all these things are not from God, and that every one of you needs to stay away from them! In fact I don't see talking on cell phones written down in the Bible anywhere. If God wanted us to use cell phones He would've wrote it down in the Bible, so that means cell phones are from the devil. I also never allow a plumber into my house, because I don't believe in plumbers. When I was in school they never taught me how to fix drain pipes, so that must mean that God doesn't fix drain pipes anymore. If God wants me to know something, then He'll teach me it first because I'm the leader here, otherwise it's not from God."

How many know that you wouldn't be going back to that church again, and might be thinking something along the lines of, "Wow, that sounds like some of the stupidest stuff I've ever heard! I don't think I've ever met someone who was so far off from reality." And yet this is what a good number of believers

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are doing to God, and the sons and daughters of God, who are actually teaching people how to walk in spiritual realities.

They say things like, "Well I never saw an angel, so that means God doesn't send angels to visit people anymore, and anyone who claims to see angels is from the devil." Or, "I never had a vision of Jesus or heard Him speak to me, because God doesn't speak to people anymore. He gave us the Bible, so now He only speaks through the Bible." Or, "Well I never learned that in ministry school, so it must not be from God. In fact my teachers even warned me to stay away from people who think they have new revelation from God, because everything I learned was all the main foundations that we can know of God right now."

Some may think that I'm exaggerating here, but believe me when I say that that is far from true. I've personally heard a number of believers say things just like the examples above about having spiritual experiences with God. And believe me when I say that to God, these people can look even more "far off from reality" than the example of the man who rejects all the earthly blessings because God never taught him how to do it first. It astonishes me how quickly and with open-arms, believers will embrace new earthly technologies, scientific & medical discoveries, inventions and medicines (and much more) as if they are all blessings from the hand of God. But the moment someone starts bringing forth greater spiritual blessings that can help people experience more of God, "Well better watch out for that brother, because they're deceived!" This kind of nonsense needs to come to an end in the church!

It's time we stop hindering God from blessing us by rejecting the infinite knowledge of His love, what He worked for us on the cross, who we are as His spiritual sons and daughters, and so much more! It is sad when a believer chooses to reject so many great and glorious things that God wants us to receive and experience Him in, just because they never experienced it before. This brings great pain and grief to the heart of God, who never ceases to long so immensely for us to know Him more. Isn't that why it's called growing?

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As we grow in experience, we continually experience new things. We are to continually go from glory to glory (2 Cor. 2:18), from faith to faith (Rom. 1:17), from strength to strength (Psalm 84:7), and from love to love! We should never stop experiencing new things in God as we continue to grow every day in the attributes of His love. If we ever go a day without experiencing new thoughts, desires, words, ways, and/or works from God, it's because we chose not to abide in Him. Every day is a day of increase in God! Which means every day we should be experiencing Him in new ways that we never have before!

Changing Cycles

I believe there are way too many believers who have a little tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny bit of the knowledge of God, acting like they know way more than they do, and rejecting everything that doesn't fit into the little box they put God in. It's just like what Jesus said to the lawyers and Pharisees of His day:

Luke 11:52:

“Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.”

These cycles need to come to an end! I don't want to be responsible for passing on religious lies to the next generation, and preventing people from knowing the true revelations of God! Do you? So many Christians are back-sliding out of the church because they aren't experiencing God's love for them! We were created for His love, and only His love, so when people don't experience Him, they have nothing left to turn to except sin. So when people teach a whole bunch of false religious doctrines that don't build intimate experiences with the living Christ, then people will go elsewhere. This is a big part of why God hates “religious” lies so much, is because they can hinder people from entering into the infinite experiences of His love.

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One of the main reasons why so many believers are struggling right now is because they haven't been taught how to experience God's love in practical ways, and to encounter Him on a regular basis. I was taught for a long time to just pray and read my Bible every day, and then one day if I held on long enough, I would go to heaven and finally meet God. This is such a limited and wrong perception of what it means to be a son or daughter of God. As I said before there are INFINITE different ways to experience God's love today, and forever. Reading the Bible and praying to God are just 2 of those ways. There are so many more ways for us to experience Him than what we have ever even begun to tap into! Remember "these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him" (Job 26:14).

Now don't get me wrong, I also still have great compassion towards people who are teaching these kinds of lies. Most people teach what they've been taught. And those people were passing on what they were taught. So if you're around people who are believing/teaching things like this, show love to them! Many people would change the way they think if someone humbly taught them the truth in love, and/or they actually experienced greater things with God.

I know there were many wrong things that I believed, said, and did in the past. So I certainly wouldn't want to blame everybody else for things not being the way they should be in the body of Christ. Rather than blaming others, we need to be responsible for our own relationship with God, seek Him as best we know how, stay open to learning new things, and love people regardless of what they believe. Just because a believer teaches wrong things at times doesn't make them any less loved in God's eyes than the person who is very sound in the truth.

We are all in this together, we're all on the same team, and are all part of the family of God. Our battle is not supposed to be against each other, but we are supposed to work together to destroy the works of the enemy. So let's be a family, be humble, loving, caring, kind, open, and hungry to know our awesome Father more! Let's love one another unconditionally, even if we

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disagree about certain things, and demonstrate the works of Christ! Let's seek to encounter God in new ways every day, and never stop being open to learning more from Him. There is so much more we have yet to learn together, and God wants you to experientially know Him more so that you can be a greater manifestation of His love and glory to all people! Glory to God!!

Further Reading:

Free Falling by Chuck Parry

The Ecstasy of Loving God by John Crowder

The New Mystics by John Crowder

For more from Terry Bennett visit www.terrybennet.net

Chapter 13

Seeking To Know Him

By now I hope that every person has received a greater revelation, impartation, and experiential manifestation of the love of God! This has been quite a journey, and I'm so grateful to have shared it with you! Realistically though, this is just a small beginning. This whole book is a grain of sand of the knowledge of God compared to a sandbox that is bigger than the universe! The purpose of this book was not to try to explain everything that God is, or be some kind of expert manual on the nature of God. One of the main purposes of this book was simply to help people get back on the right foundation of seeing all of God's attributes as being found in His love, and help us more rightly understand who we are in His love by personally experiencing Him. Obviously there is WAAAAAY more to these things than what we've covered here (especially since God's nature is the source of all knowledge, and every single one of His attributes has infinite knowledge/revelation to it). There are so many more attributes of God's love left to discover, and each one helps add to the infinitely infinite revelations of the knowledge of God.

There are so many more aspects to God's nature than what we've gone over here, so if you feel like there's a bunch missing, that's probably because there is! We have endless amounts of experiences left to explore, discover, and realize in the wonderful nature of our Father's love! There is no end to this eternal life of overwhelming abundance in Him. Our greatest purpose, destiny,

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and calling is simply to know Him! Everything else in life is 2nd place at best.

So let's live a life worthy of our calling, worthy of the love that has been shown to us, and walk in His love like never before! There is no end to the amount of books that could be written about the nature of our Father. That's great news! That means that there's plenty of spiritual pie to go around. Haha. Alls we have to do is receive the mighty and glorious inheritance that our Father has already given to us. Then we live it out, and share it with others. What an amazing life to be called a son or daughter of God! There is nothing greater that we could be!

I hope by now that you have also been greatly encouraged to pursue your own journey in discovering the nature of God. The whole world is waiting to hear what you discover! There is such a need for the knowledge of God's nature to be revealed to His children, and to all people. It's time for the knowledge of the glory of the Lord to fill the earth. If you've been wondering what the best thing you can do with your life is: It's to know Him, and make Him known! Keep it simple. All the other details God will work out for us.

In order for that to happen though we need to keep our priorities in the right place. Too many people are wondering what God wants them to do as a career or ministry, when God's first priority for our lives is that we would know Him. As we know Him more and more, then we will find more specific details about what He has in store for us. For in knowing Him we find the solutions to all of life's needs, problems, desires, and questions. Too many people base their identity on what they do, instead of what Christ did for us, to make us sons and daughters of God! It is God who makes us who we are, and we have already been perfected through the cross of Christ. God fulfilled our calling and destiny for us by raising us up with Christ, and making us like Him.

It is not a career, or ministry, that makes us great; it's being like God that makes us great! He loves us unconditionally, seeks our highest good at all times, and has rewarded us with the most

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extravagant inheritance we could possibly have: all things in Him! All the more reason for us to pursue knowing Him, for in knowing Him we also find who we were created to be in Him, and the supreme vastness of everything that He has given us as well.

How To Enter In

I would like to share some last key points of how to enter into greater glories with the Lord. As you may recall in the beginning of this book I talked about how I would spend time with God by entering in with thanksgiving, praise, and worship. Well I want to share a bit more in detail on what I mean by that, as I believe it can be a source of great help to you. First of all there are infinite ways for us to “enter in” to our time of worship with God. What I mean by entering in is that there are many ways to engage our spirit, soul, and body with the person of God.

Really, it is Christ who already brought us into the Most Holy Place through the cross, so we have already entered in (Heb. 9:11-15). We are the tabernacle of God, the dwelling place of His Spirit, and the Holy of Holies. Everywhere we go, the glory of God goes with us. Our life is meant to be a life of ceaseless, and continual expressions of the love of God. God never stops experiencing His own love in every way possible, and He lives in us! That means the more we grow in God, the more we will be like Him in experiencing His love at all times!

So the first key to entering in, is actually to never leave! Haha. Since Christ made a way for us into the person of God, we should always be aware of our connection to Him. Now I realize that many of us aren't living up to this standard, but it is so much easier to walk in than we may think. In order for us to do this though, our mind needs to be continually renewed in the mind of Christ. We also need to make a conscious effort daily to commune with God. In other words, we simply enjoy Him living in us throughout the day. We don't always have to say things to commune with God, simply enjoying Him can be good

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enough. Sure we do want to talk with Him as well, and exercise our spiritual senses, but we also need to really enjoy simply being with Him. So as we go over these last 3 attributes of thanksgiving, praising, and worshipping, one of my heart's desires is that we would all learn more how to simply enjoy the extreme pleasure of abiding in the love of God!

Thankfulness

Thankfulness is an attribute of God's love. He is the most thankful being there is. No one gives more thanks than God Himself. His love is thankful for every thought, desire, motive, expression, and work of love that comes forth through His people.

Psalm 138:2 NLT:

*"I bow before your holy Temple as I worship. **I will give thanks to your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness, because your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.**"* (boldness added)

Prov. 23:16:

"Yes, my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak right things."

God's love causes us to be thankful. God Himself rejoices in thankfulness over every righteous word that comes forth from our lips! He is truly the most thankful that any being could possibly be, and the source of all thanksgiving throughout all of His creation! Thankfulness is not just a vocal expression, it is a state of being. It is something that God is, and that we become in Him.

1 Thess. 5:18 NLT:

"No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

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God is thankful for everything that has to do with His love, no matter where it is found. He's thankful for the manifestations of His love in Himself, in us, in the angels, and in all of His creation. He is not thankful for anything from the sin nature, as He hates everything that has to do with sin. In Christ we too were created to be thankful for all the good things that come from God. We should never thank God for evil, for sickness, or for things of that nature. We can thank God for working good in the midst of our hardships, but I don't believe we should ever thank Him for any kind of evil hardships that might come against us (except maybe persecution).

Thankfulness is a heart attitude that shows our appreciation for the things that God does in our life, whether big or small. We always have more than enough to be thankful for, so there is always plenty of opportunity for us to give thanks. One of the common things often said when I was at Bethel Church is, "Whatever we thank God for increases." This is a very true statement. Often times when we get a partial manifestation of God's promises, a big key to receiving the rest of it is to be thankful for what we currently have. God loves a thankful heart because it reflects His heart! The more thankful we are, the more the attribute of thankfulness will overflow in and through our lives.

Thankfulness is a great way to regularly remind the Lord, and ourselves, of all the good things He has done for us. When facing challenging circumstances it can be very helpful for us to remember all the good things that God has done for us. This can help build faith and trust in God that He will come through again. When we are facing opposition, and aren't focused on the many victories we've had in the past, we can end up seeing things from a wrong perspective. Being thankful helps remind us of the goodness of God's love for us, and His overwhelming ability to care for us. Even if you feel like you don't have anything to be thankful for, we can always thank Him for what Jesus did for us on the cross! And remember, we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us! (Rom 8:37)

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Praising

Psalm 147:1 AMP:

“PRAISE THE Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God, for He is gracious and lovely; praise is becoming and appropriate.”

1 Cor. 4:5:

“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.”

Praising is an attribute of God’s love that enables us to give Him praise! He also gives us praise as His children. God praises us for everything that we are in His love! And we give the praise, honor, and glory right back to Him for all that He is, because He’s the One who made us to be so amazing! God’s love brings forth infinite varieties and expressions of praise. We can praise in dance, in song, in word, with instruments, with clapping, shouting, jumping, and so much more. There is no end to the different ways that we can praise God. It is His Spirit that enables us to give Him praise, through the attribute of Praising. All of God’s works were meant to bring Him thanksgiving, praise, honor, glory, worship, and more! So every time God does something it gives us even more reason to praise Him for who He is.

Praise is focused more on the different attributes of God’s nature. We praise Him because He is mighty, holy, wonderful, glorious, majestic, powerful, wise, just, correcting, excellent, magnificent, awesome, and so on. We should praise God for everything that He is! We can also praise Him for what He does as well. Heaven is full of loud, spontaneous, and glorious praise! Heaven is not timid, shy, or reserved in their praise to God. We were created to make His praise glorious!

Psalm 66:2:

“Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious.”

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Psalm 33:1:

“Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful.”

Rom. 5:11 AMP:

“Not only so, but we also rejoice and exultingly glory in God [in His love and perfection] through our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we have now received and enjoy [our] reconciliation.”

Psalm 149:5-6:

*“Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them Sing aloud on their beds.
(6) Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand.”*

Our praise to God is glorious, holy, beautiful, and more! It is one of the ways we can express our love and devotion to God for being so incredible. Like thankfulness, praise is meant to be a lifestyle, not just something we do. We are to be living manifestations of the praise of God! Praising God as we breathe, think, feel, love, rejoice, and act in the Spirit of God. I really recommend singing and shouting to God in high praise! There's something about shouting to God with all your heart that can really help release His glory through us, and release His kingdom in the earth.

A heart of praise comes from enjoying the awesomeness of God. I remember one time I was sitting in the living room simply enjoying the sweetness of God's love and glory in me. After some time had passed, I suddenly felt like maybe I should be doing something more than that. So I asked what He was doing. He told me that He was enjoying me! Haha. That really rocked me! I then realized that the enjoyment of God I was experiencing was actually an expression of His delight in being with me! Experiences like this have helped me to realize that often the greatest form of praise, or worship, is to enjoy the divine pleasure of experientially knowing Him! His love is so fantastically pleasure-full!

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Worship

2 Chron. 7:3 NIV:

“When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, “He is good; his love endures forever.””

Worship is also an attribute of God’s love. Even worship is an expression of the love of God. It is the incredibleness of God’s love towards us that causes us to worship Him. The same is true for all of the creation. Since He is the source of all life, worship is a supernatural response of honor given to the one who sustains our very being with His own life. Worship is holy, amazing, glorious, and so much more! Contrary to what some may believe, I don’t believe that worship is the greatest thing that we can give back to God. I believe it is one of the greatest things we can give to Him, but the greatest is our love. Since even worship is found inside of His love, I believe our love (which is really His love) is the greatest thing we can give back to God!

We worship God because we love Him. Worship is definitely one of the highest forms of expressing that love, as He is the only One we were created to worship. Worship is so vast in it’s purest definition that I wouldn’t dare claim to share it all here. Simply put though worship is to give oneself over to God in heart, mind, will, spirit, soul, body, word, thought, emotion, motive, intention, expression, work, and more. Basically to give our entire being over to God in pure devotion of love, awe, and gratitude as we honor Him for the love that He has given to us!

Worship is also a lifestyle. We worship God in everything we are, and do, that is of Him. When we sing praise, give thanks, do acts of service, clean the house, pray, read the Bible, walk on water, and any other expression of love, it is meant to also be worship unto God. Worship is a heart posture of devotion to the Lord in all of life’s circumstances. Even when we work a job, if we

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do it unto the Lord it is worship to Him (Col. 3:23). Like praise though, worship is more focused on the person of God.

Worship to me also tends to be more focused on who God is according to His attributes, or names. We worship God because He is Holiness, Righteousness, Justice, Mercifulness, Seeing, Hearing, Believing, Glory, Love, Joy, Peace, Faithfulness, etc. Since everything God does comes from His attributes, His works should always lead us to worship Him for who He is. As we worship God for who He is, we take on the very image we are worshipping, or giving ourselves over to. Which means that as we worship Him for who He is, we receive greater manifestations of His attributes into our lives! Which is why it is so enjoyable to worship God. As we worship Him, He fills us with the attributive expressions of His love, which also transforms us to be more like Him!

I think this is one of the most common ways that people grow in the attributes of God. He is so truly worthy of all of our worship, ceaselessly, always, and forever! Why not just lift your hands and give Him some praise, honor, and worship now! Thank You Holy Blessed Father of Glory, The Eternal God who Reigns over all! You are infinitely wonderful, glorious, powerful, awesome, magnificent, kind, and beyond compare! No one could ever even begin to compare with You! I love You and worship You for all that You are! Glory to God in the Highest, and love to all my family in Christ!

Get Going

So I encourage you to express thankfulness, praising, and worshipping (as well as all the attributes of God) as part of your daily living. We cannot truly live without them! From the time we get up, to the time we go to sleep, we have endless reasons to express our love to God in these ways. We so need to be more connected with God! It starts with making conscious choices every day to seek Him above all!

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As I said earlier this whole journey of knowing God's nature started with me simply making time to enter in with thanksgiving, praise, and worship on a regular/daily basis. At first I would only spend about 30 minutes to an hour doing this. When I was worshipping I would then meditate upon, or behold the different attributes of God (Remember meditation in God means to fill our mind with the thoughts of God). As I did revelation would begin to flow about what the attributes are, and what they represent/can do.

At first I was only getting a little bit of new revelations. The more I persisted though, the more revelation I would get. As the level of revelation increased, so did my hunger and desire to know Him more. This led to me spending more and more time with God desiring to know His attributes. I found myself simply wanting to know God for who He really is. What started out 30-60 minutes a day eventually turned into hours a day (God would also reveal knowledge of other things to me as well during this time). Many times I would also encounter the Lord through my spiritual senses during this time, and He would reveal things to me face to face, or person to person. Often He would show me visions, examples, or illustrations of what His attributes can do, and more. I have been awed, wowed, amazed, astounded, overwhelmed, excited, rejoicing, saddened (in a godly way), grieved, and so much more through knowing the attributes of His love. I was often willing to sacrifice whatever I needed to in order to spend more time with God. I began to be feel like what Paul said:

Phil. 3:7-11:

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. (8) What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ (9) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. (10)

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I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (11) and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Sometimes I would get discouraged though if I wasn't learning/experiencing that much. During this process the Lord would often encourage me by saying things like, "The more You understand My attributes, the more You'll understand all things." Little did I know how much these simple times of devotion with the Lord would forever change my life! And the process of seeking to discover His nature/attributes more started about 3 years ago! (I was more focused on learning other things before then)

I share these things with you because God wants to do the same with you, and so much greater!!! In fact, part of the reason why I've shared so many of my own experiences is because I believe it would've been really wrong/sad if I had shared a bunch of great revelations with you from God, without ever teaching how to get your own revelations from God for yourself. (As well as some of the process that God took me through to help me experience Him more, so that He can help you experience Him more)

Even just 6 years ago I was just an "average" Christian, who barely experienced any of God, and didn't really know how to experience Him very much. I was very unsatisfied in my walk with God, and didn't know how I could be more intimate with the One whom I so greatly longed to know. I share these things with you not to "boast of my great experiences," but to boast of how easy it is for our awesome and loving Father to help any single daughter or son experientially know Him more!

So I hope that it has helped you! There is absolutely nothing extraordinary about me, apart from having the same God living in me, who also lives in you. There is no one greater or less than in His eyes, we are all equal in His love. If God could do that much for me in so little a time, how much more could He do for you?! We simply need to make the time necessary to spend with Him, and to put the revelations He shows us into practice in our

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daily lives. The more we do this the easier it will be for us, and the more we will get out of it. By following the simple activations in this book you too can go on an infinitely glorious adventure of discovering the fullness of God's love!

The choice is yours, no more excuses! There's more than enough of God left to explore, and the body of Christ needs you to walk in the full manifestation of Christ that we are all called to walk in. Believe it my beloved family! Now is the time to awaken to our inheritance and seek the nature of God like never before! The world is waiting to know His love, and we must be the ones to manifest it! So go ahead, spend time with God, and grow in the infiniteness of all that He is!!!!

Conclusion

Remember in the beginning of this book, we saw that Jesus said that the entire law, the prophets, and every other command of God is summed up in: Love?! (See Matt. 22:35-40, Gal. 5:14) Remember that it's the attributes of God that produces His desires, thoughts, ways, and works. So if any attribute of God was outside of His love, then it would require more than just love to fulfill all the commandments of God. But because everything that God is, is LOVE, then by walking in love we will fulfill all that God wants us to be and do.

His Love is Righteousness. His Love is Wisdom. His Love is Knowledge. His Love is Goodness. His Love is Justice. His Love is Mercifulness. His Love is Honor. His Love is Humorousness. His Love is Courageousness. His Love is Perfection. His Love is Longsuffering. His Love is Power. His Love is Strength. His Love is Holiness. His Love is Majesty. His Love is Greatness. His Love is Awesomeness. His Love is Seeing. His Love is Devotion. And so much more!!

Remember also how we went over that the nature of God's love is more like a circle, rather than a straight line. This is true, but really the nature of God's love is God. Love is who He is. So when we look at Jesus, we see love in the form of a Person,

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and as being who God is. Therefore the nature of God's love can take any shape, form, or expression that is a manifestation of His LOVE! (Not just a circle, but understanding it as a circle is one way to help us view His nature more accurately.)

His Love is the Height, Width, Length, Depth, Foundation, Root, Supremacy, Perfection, Bond, and Fullness of all that He is, and that we are in Him. Every thought of God is Love! Every desire of God is Love! Every motive of God is Love! Every word of God is Love! Every way and work of God is Love! Praise and glory be to God for His incomparably great LOVE!!!!

So go out there and receive love, be love, and live in love at all times!

1 Cor. 16:14 NIV "Do everything in love."

A Small List

To help keep you going here is a list of some more attributes of God's love. Feel free to spend as much time as you'd like discovering what they are, and can do. Some of them may surprise you to see them as being attributes of God. Remember some of the foundations we went over earlier, which can help you understand these attributes. I'm not going to try to prove to you that all of these are attributes of God's love, that's up to you and God to discover. A couple quick reminders though: Every good expression of life comes from an attribute of God, everything God does come from an attribute that He is, and there are at least 1,000's of attributes of God (and possibly much more). Have fun enjoying Him! Attributes of LOVE:

Anointing, Prophesying, Awesomeness, Dominion, Deliverance, Completing, Perfecting, Excellence, Imagining, Building, Growing, Multiplying, Increasing, Favoring, Blessing, Vengeance, Delightfulness, Ecstasy, Pleasure, Trusting, Faithfulness, Glorifying, Magnifying, Majesty, Comforting, Encouraging, Valuing, Worthiness, Humbleness, Meekness, Creativeness, Visiting, Inhabiting, Fullness, Flowing, Dancing, Singing, Counseling, Establishing, Strengthening, Courageousness, Boldness,

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Invincibility, Invisibility, Transforming, Shaping, Approving, Sonship, Equality, Unifying, Empowering, Prospering, Possibility, Interceding, Protecting, and Breakthrough.

And so many more!!!!!!

End Word

I hope that this book has greatly blessed you! When the Lord commissioned me to write this book He told me, “I want My bride to be adorned with all the priceless treasures of the attributes of My love.” God wants all of His children to know His love that surpasses knowledge! I believe that many of the common misperceptions of God’s nature in the church right now come from not understanding that all of His attributes are found inside of His love. This truth is too invaluable for us not to know! That’s a big part of why this book is available for free as an e-book, and even an audio message series. God wants nothing to stand in the way of His people knowing Him for who He really is!

So I greatly encourage you to pass this message along to as many people as possible! Every single person needs to know the true revelations of the nature of our Father’s love, and begin to discover Him for themselves. This book was designed, with God’s help, to be a stepping stone to empower other believers to go on their own extravagant adventure in knowing God’s attributes of love. According to Eph. 4:11-16 it says that the body of Christ grows as each part does its work. That means you! We all have a very invaluable and significant role to play in revealing God’s glory to the nations!

Smith Wigglesworth said, “Believe that asking is receiving, seeking is finding, and knocking is opening.” Matt. 7:8 “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” God has already given us all things in Christ! So whenever we ask Him questions in faith, expecting that He will answer us, He is faithful to do so! I’m sure after reading this that you probably have many more questions about God’s nature. It’s when we stop seeking, asking,

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and knocking, that we can end up not receiving, finding, and opening. God wants to reveal Himself to you, and is waiting with great anticipation to do so!

Our first priority though should be to seek to know God simply because we want to know Him. We shouldn't be seeking God primarily so that we can teach other people about Him. Bill Johnson says, "Professional intimacy is prostitution." God reveals His secrets to His children and friends so that we can know Him more. John 5:20 "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does." He is not as concerned about us sharing His revelations, as He is about us being a living manifestation of His truths. Our first priority in seeking God should always be for us to be more one with His love! Then if somewhere down the road He permits us to share, then we can do so. If not, we gladly treasure the invaluable gems of His nature and glory, and keep them in secret.

Our own personal intimacy with God should always be the main way we learn from God. I do also believe in learning from others as well. There are many references to other good resources in this book that can help you get going on greater adventures with God. One of the things I've noticed in ministering different places is that many people are hungry for God, but don't know what resources will help them grow in actually experiencing Him more. So this book is loaded with other great resources to help you do that. I want to encourage you to check them out as you feel led.

I also want to let you know that I do permit people to teach/preach this message as long as you do these things:

Live it first! Be the message before you try to convince others they need to know God's love. It's very easy to tell if someone's walking in love, and if they're not, so it wouldn't be very wise to tell others to walk in God's love if you're not doing it yourself. That doesn't mean we have to be perfect, but it is good to at least begin to walk in the greatness of His love before we attempt to teach others.

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Secondly is that I would greatly appreciate it if you refer people to my website/book so that they can get their own free copy of this message. The knowledge of God's love is part of every child of God's inheritance so the revelations of truth contained in this book are just as much yours as they are mine. Please don't abuse that though, and try to pretend like you got some great download directly from the Holy Ghost to impress your congregation/others. This book is available for free so that everyone can learn these things, and grow in their own intimate journey with God!

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Also I had some last questions/points to share:

Early on in the book I mentioned that all of God's attributes are found in His love, and are perfectly united together. So if His love manifests, all of His attributes are present in that manifestation; some may just be less visible than others, are inactive, or are manifesting in different dimensions. So how does this work? Also, speaking of dimensions, if God created multiple dimensions in the creation (scientists now believe there are many more "unseen" dimensions than just the original 4 they thought existed), does that mean God has an attribute that can create new dimensions? Since God can make anything to be infinite in measure, if God can create dimensions, would that then mean that there are infinite dimensional realities in God? What is the full extent of God's love for us, and how full of His love will we be in eternity? It says in Col. 2:9-10 NIV that we have been given fullness in Christ. If our spirit is already full of God, how full is it? How one with God are we now, and how one with Him will

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we be for all eternity? Hmm...sounds like we have much more good stuff yet to learn...

To be continued...

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Prelude to the next book

Since I don't have any other books written yet, instead of listing other resources from myself, I decided to give a prelude of the next work in progress. I hope you enjoy!

The Manifold Nature of His Love

As we've gone over already, all of God's attributes are found in His love. Meaning that every attribute of God is an attribute of His love. There is a 2nd major dynamic to the nature of God that we have not covered in depth yet. This has to do with the reality that all of God's attributes are perfectly joined together in love. Meaning that if one attribute of love is manifesting, all the other attributes are present in that same manifestation, some may just be less visible than others, or are manifesting in different dimensions. We will be going over this aspect of God's nature much more in the pages to come.

It says in the Bible in multiple places that God's nature is manifold. What does this mean? The truth that God's nature is manifold means that it is multi-leveled, multi-faceted, multi-attributive, and multi-dimensional (and more) in all that God is and does. There is not a single manifestation of God that is not manifold.

Psalms 104:24:

"O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions--"

1 Peter 4:10:

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

What does this manifold nature of God mean practically, and how does it really work? So glad you asked! This is such a

profound reality to the nature of God that it has regularly and often daily left me astounded in amazement at how glorious and incomparable the nature of God is! He is so truly out of this world! To help illustrate a little bit of what I mean, let's take a look at some Scriptures for wisdom.

Eph. 3:10:

"to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,"

James 3:17 NIV:

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

Prov. 8:12:

"I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. (13) To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. (14) Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power."

Prov. 10:31:

"The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out."

Prov. 11:2:

"When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom."

Wow! Remember how God's wisdom is found in His love, and that all the attributes manifest together in love? Well according to the Scriptures above, what do the attributes of purity, peace, considerateness, submissiveness, mercy, goodness, sincerity, prudence, knowledge, understanding, the fear of the LORD, counsel, sound judgment, power, righteousness, and humbleness

all have to do with wisdom? Every one of the attributes combines with wisdom to manifest the different expressions of God's love!

Notice how it says in James that the wisdom from heaven is pure, peaceful, submissive, full of mercy, etc. Meaning that when God's love manifests wisdom it is ALWAYS with the attributes of purity, peacefulness, submissiveness, understanding, knowledge, power, strength, righteousness, humbleness, and every other attribute present, unified, and working together in that manifestation! It also says above in Psalms 104:24 that ALL of God's manifold works were made with wisdom. Meaning that every work of God's love was done with wisdom, and every other attribute of love present in some way! This is due to the fact that God only manifests His love in wise, pure, awesome, righteous, holy, humble, strong, knowledgeable, understanding, glorious, powerful and victorious ways at all times, and in all things!

Now this is definitely going to take a great deal of teaching, revelations, Scriptures, and most importantly the love of God, just to begin to explain. The fullness of these realities is so infinitely vast in comprehension that no earthly book could dare come close to revealing them. But hopefully by the end of this book you will at least be able to begin to understand the multi-dimensional, multi-attributive, multi-leveled, and perfectly unified manifold nature of God's love!!! 😊

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