

Secure in God's Love (Ps 36:1-9, Eph 3:14-19, Hosea 2:14-16)



'Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies...' (Ps 36:5 NIV)

1. 'Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens'

- A. David just spoke of the revelation he had concerning wicked men (36:1-4). Yet he speaks of God's unfailing love reaching to the highest heavens. What perception of life! Under God's heaven, wherever you go, whatever situation you find yourself in, you cannot get to a place and time where God's love does not reach, where you cannot connect to God's love. This is a fallen world of sin and wickedness, but still God's unfailing love covers from heaven down to earth.
- B. *God is love (1 John 4:8)*. Love is God's supreme motivation in everything He does. Love is the reason why He does anything. That is why God created this world, and that is why you were born and why you exist.
- C. This is the hidden mystery behind every human experience.¹ An unbeliever asked Corrie ten Boom who suffered in a Nazi concentration camp because her family helped Jews, *'Where was your God in all these wickedness and atrocities?'* Corrie answered, *'I do not know the answer to your question. But I know that we cannot face the situation without faith in our God.'*

2. 'Your faithfulness to the skies...'

- A. God's love always expresses itself in faithfulness. God's love is unfailing. God is always faithful. Derek Prince testified after serving God over 50 years, *'If I were to leave any words for posterity, it can be summed up in three words: God is faithful.'* *In every circumstance and the life's darkest challenges, God always came through and God has been totally faithful, totally reliable, and totally trustworthy.*² What a testimony! God's love is the absolute foundation for Christian life. People speak of hitting rock-bottom. That rock-bottom for the child of God is the love of God. You cannot go any lower than that.

Do you believe God's singular motivation behind the creation of our world is His love? Do you believe the reason you are conscious and alive is because God willed you into being and behind that will, was His love for you? Do you believe that God is working out His glorious plan in your life? That He planned it before you were born, even before the foundation of the world? Do you believe that with your co-operation God will be successful in fulfilling His plan for your life?

- B. The greatest tragedy and crime in life is not being loved, being denied of love. This is a terrible injustice to the human soul because we were created to be loved unconditionally, and outside of that secure boundary of love, our soul cannot grow and mature into all that we are designed for. All ills of life stem from this evil – when we perceive we are denied love when we are made for it, when we are created to *receive and to return unconditional love*.

How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.' (35:7-9)

David found security under the wings of God's love. He found the abundance of life's provision and the river of delight in the unfailing love of God. David saw the fountain of life in God and there he saw life through God's eyes of love – 'in your light, we see light'.

Mothers, why do you cook and feed your children day after day? Not because they did well in exams or did everything right. David too saw that all the blessings in his life were due to God's great love for him, and there he could see his life through God's eyes. Do you count the blessings in your life as God's gift of love for you? (c.f. Ps 103:2)

3. Paul's Prayer for the Ephesian church (Eph 3:14-19)

- A. Paul prayed for all the saints in the Ephesian church that together they will corporately grasp, comprehend and understand the four-dimensional love of God - breadth, length, height, depth - so that they will be firmly established in the love of Christ. What a prayer!

- B. This 4-dimensional love of God is so deep and foreign to the darkened mind of fallen man that we cannot comprehend it by our own intellect. Therefore, Paul prays for the strengthening of their 'inner being' (spirit-man) to create a 'spiritual receptacle' so that they may grasp the truth of God's love for us. It takes a spiritual mind to comprehend and respond to such pure love! How easily we misconstrue it. Paradox: This love of God is knowable only by the Spirit, yet it surpasses knowledge – it is not fully knowable. It will take an eternity to explore the depth of God's love. And the only way to begin receiving this love of God is through faith in Jesus Christ.
- C. *'To be filled with His love' is 'to be filled with all the fullness of God.'* (3:19) You are the strongest, freest, and happiest person when you are filled with the love of God. No man on earth and no power in hell can make you feel small, miserable, or defeated. No man can demean you. You overcome the world the same way Jesus overcame the world. The whole point of this life is to grow in His love. God measures the success of your life in terms of growth in love. Nothing else.

4. God's priority in dealing with us: To win us to Himself in His love. (Hosea 2:14-16, 19-20)

- A. God 'allures us' (entices, draws us) in His love (2:14), then He leads us into the desert where there is no water. But God has a hidden plan. He doesn't tell us everything, and that's part of His plan. He entices us into a desert-like situation and there He causes us to turn to Him and cry out to Him with all our heart because there is no other natural hope in the desert.
- 'I will speak tenderly to her,' – literally, 'I will speak to her heart.'* God wants more than communication. God wants a heart-to-heart talk - 'communion', 'love-talk.'
- B. *'There I will give her back her vineyards' (2:15) – 'joy restored.'*
- 'I will make the valley of Achor the door of hope.'* (2:15) 'Valley of Achor' means 'Valley of Trouble.' Suddenly God opens a door in the middle of the desert. That's the door of hope that God opens for you that no man can take away from you. He turns our experience of trouble and hopelessness into a door of hope. Valley of Achor is where Achan's covetousness brought a curse upon Israel and caused them to be defeated before their enemy. Achan was found out and destroyed at the valley of Achor. Achan represents the man of flesh.
- C. God's ultimate purpose in bringing us into the desert to His door of hope is for spiritual union with Him. After this, the way we see God changes – from calling Him 'my master' (Baal) to 'my husband' (2:16). From the 'relationship of contractual duty' to 'love relationship'. It takes an awakened heart to recognise love and to respond to that love.
- '...as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.'* (Is 62:5) When love becomes the basis of your life, your life becomes beautiful. What is a beautiful life? It is a life lived for love. 'The beauty of the Lord' is upon those who live for love. (C.f. Ps 90:17)

5. Where do We Begin? (Eph 5:25-32)

It begins with our relationship with Christ, and it ought to start with our family. Christ's love for us the church is the pattern for our marriage relationship.

- A. It reveals Christ's supreme motivation in dealing with us - 'love'. Christ's love is expressed in 'sanctifying' and 'cleansing' (5:26 - spiritual provision), 'nourishing' and 'cherishing' (5:29 – physical and emotional provision). Christ has made the full provision for our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.
- B. It is self-giving love, not just words or impersonal gifts. Christ gives Himself to us and for us.
- C. Love has a vision for what we can be. Christ's love does not just leave us the way we are. His love has a clear vision of what He can do to make us beautiful and glorious, *'that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spots or wrinkles or any such things, but that she should be holy and without blemish.'* Jesus saw us and envisioned the 'holy people.'
- D. The ultimate purpose is 'union'. He will be one with us forever in a covenant of marriage relationship.