

Exalting the Lord Jesus through receiving His love, grace, truth and power.

Lesson # 4 – The Person of God and His Passionate Desire

Introduction

- A. It is our Heavenly Father's passionate desire that we (all people) **receive** what He has freely given. He is not stingy, does not demand payment, and does not withhold His gifts.
- B. If we do not **receive** (take, appropriate, embrace, lay-hold-of, accept, enter into) what He has freely given to us—we will not **experience** (enjoy, be benefited by, strengthened by, participate in, develop, truly know) the gifts He has given.
- C. It is not enough to **know the facts** about His gifts. A person can give high value to such gifts, talk about them, want them, describe them, pray for them, wait for them, cry for them, and **yet not experience** them—simply because they have not made a choice to **receive, accept them by faith, and practice them. To live like that is very grieving to the Holy Spirit.** We feel a little as He does when we want to give a gift and its refused.

I. The Person and Character of Our Heavenly Father.

- A. God is a Person. He speaks of Himself by use of personal pronouns and describes Himself as thinking, feeling, planning, making decisions, loving, being angry, being hurt, and caring. He is not some idea or doctrine of a transcendent force or controlling power.
- B. God has character. He is infinitely great (without limitation). He is the fullness of love, holiness, truth, faithfulness, power, knowledge, righteousness and faithfulness. In His character He is unchangeable. In His emotions and permissive decrees there is change. Because He is God—He is loving and angry at the same time. However, God is always perfectly loving, holy, truthful, faithful, righteous and good.
- C. God has the right to be loved, worshipped, honored, respected, recognized, praised, believed and obeyed. He can be trusted always to do what is right, good, loving and kind.

II. The Passionate Desire of Our Heavenly Father.

- A. Because God is infinite love—and love is passionate about giving, helping, caring, rescuing, sharing, bestowing, enabling, blessing, strengthening, directing and fellowshiping—He has made every provision to give us Himself and wonderful, valuable gifts, to meet our every need. We do not have to beg Him to give—**He has given.**

***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...** John 3:16*

***He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?** Romans 8:32*

- B. God has given, provided, promised and even exhorted us to receive—but somehow we often fail to receive and thereby miss wonderful experiences of blessing and freedom.

Do you know people who are forgiven but have not experienced forgiveness? Or people who are loved but do not experience love? Or those who are accepted but experience abandonment? Or those who are approved but experience rejection?

- C. Why is it that as believers we know so much about God, His love, His gifts, His promises, and His Word—and yet experience so little of His joy, peace, power, grace and in particular—His love and presence? Its not supposed to be that way!
- D. The only answer we can give is that we have not received what God has given.
1. Perhaps we have concentrated so much on our needs that we have missed the Giver—in Whom all our needs will be met.
 2. Perhaps we have separated the Giver from His gifts and want only His gifts.
 3. Perhaps we've been taught to concentrate on our works—to earn His gifts.
 4. Consider the truths of Rom 8:32; 1 Cor 1:22-24, 30; 2:12; Eph 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3.

III. Our Father's Instruction: Focus on the Lord Jesus and His Love.

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love." John 15:9

"I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." John 15:26

IV. Suggestions Related to Responding to Our Father's Passionate Desire.

After thoughtful preparation, concentrate on the Lord Jesus by thinking on one of His names or attributes. In reverence acknowledge His greatness, worship Him, praise and thank Him. Ask Him to come into your heart and life. Ask Him to come to you and love you experientially, and teach you to love Him. Continue in that attitude for a time. Do not be in a hurry. If you sense a problem in receiving, or the enemy at work—invite the Lord Jesus into the problem, turn it over to Him along with the enemy. Note the following verse.

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20

Since you have heard His voice in His Word—respond to His invitation and open the door to your heart and life. As you do so learn to be aware of the Lord's manifest presence with you. Ask Him to teach you to live constantly in His presence. Turn the needs of the day over to Him. Invite Him into each need, surrender it to Him, ask for guidance as to how you can cooperate with Him regarding it. Deliberately choose to receive His love and to love Him by paying attention to Him. Continue to use **The Daily Focus**.

