

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

Lesson # 8—Encouragement: We can Love the Lord, Bring Him Joy, by Pleasing Him!

Introduction

- A. Genuine love produces an activity—a desire and choices to please the lover.
- B. Every person who knows true love wants to “do something” for their lover.
- C. The Bible tells us what to do: we can express our love by activities that please the Lord Jesus and bring Him joy.

I. The Biblical Illustration: The 72 disciples brought joy to the Lord Jesus.

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure." Luke 10:21

- A. The Lord Jesus had instructed the 72 and sent them out to represent Him. Luke 10:1-16
- B. The 72 returned with joy, a good report, and told Him what happened. Luke 10:17.
- C. The Lord Jesus said their ministry was breaking down the work of the enemy. Luke 10:18-20
- D. The faith, love and obedience of the 72 brought joy to Him and to the Father. Luke 10:21
- E. We're told these truths to encourage us that **we can express our love in the same way!**

II. The Goal for Our Daily Life: Love Manifested in Pleasing God = Fruit & Every Good.

So we make it our goal to please him... 2 Corinthians 5:9

- A. The Lord taught Paul to have this daily goal and it became a major key in his life and ministry
- B. The goal opens the door for the Holy Spirit so He can release His power and gifts.
- C. Consider these truths carefully: **true love plus this practical goal results in every good!**
- D. We must face a great problem: Sin has given us it's goal—pleasing ourselves. See Is 53:6
- E. The Lord Jesus knew this goal: **"I always do what pleases him."** John 8:29
- F. These truths are at the heart of what it means to live “effortless Christianity.”
- G. **Warning: do not fall back into religious striving to do this. Receive His love, surrender to Him, ask Him to teach you and then cooperate with Him. It may take time.**

III. The Importance of Having the Daily Goal of Loving and Pleasing God

- A. Pleasing God was what Paul taught his converts.

Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

1 Thessalonians 4:1

- B. Pleasing God was Paul's testimony of personal freedom.

On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4

- C. Pleasing God was Paul's advice for all believers.

Live as children of light...and find out what pleases the Lord. Eph 5:8-10

- D. Pleasing God was Paul's explanation of the meaning of God's will.

Asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will...and may please him in every way...

Col 1:9,10 (Please read Vs 9-12 and see all the **good** that will follow pleasing God.)

- E. Pleasing God is Paul's explanation of the Kingdom of God.

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God.. Romans 14:17,18

IV. Encouraging Illustrations of the Goal—Expressing our Love by Pleasing God.

- A. It was the goal of Enoch who lived in difficult times.

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. Hebrews 11:5

- B. The Church at Phillipi had learned how to please God.

I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. Philippians 4:18

V. There are Great Promises Related to Pleasing God.

- A. God works in us so we can express our love to Him by pleasing Him.

Wherefore, my beloved, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Phil 2:12,13 (KJV)

May the God of peace... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ... Heb 13:20,21

- B. Loving God and expressing it in pleasing Him is the basis for an effective prayer life.

We...receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 1 John 3:21,22

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