SUBJECT 6
UNDERSTANDING GOD’S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Understanding God’s Love

I. Being born again, through what Jesus did, God has already provided for everything you may need.

A. We have learned what has been provided by grace.

B. We have learned how to rest in it, trusting God and appropriating by faith what He’s already provided.

C. This foundational truth is the result of God loving you so much.

   Understanding how much God loves you will affect your attitude toward Him and your personal relationship with Him.

   Everything else in the Christian life comes as a result of relationship.

D. So many people are looking for some kind of a key, or trying to work some formula to get God to answer their wants or needs.

   How to take two or three steps they can follow.

   Something they can say or do.

   They treat God like He is a slot machine. “Give me something I can stick in there and pull the handle so that I can get God to give me my pay off.”

II. The most important thing you can learn is that God’s grace is unconditional.

A. It never fluctuates based on your performance.

   God doesn’t love you more or less if you are good, or bad.,

B. It has to do with believing in God’s love for you. It has nothing to do with what you are. It has everything to do with who and what He is.

   John 3:16 NLT For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

   1 John 4:9 HCSB God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

III. How do we know that God loves us?

A. Such knowledge is not based on a feeling, or emotion. Feelings and emotions can be dangerous. “I don’t feel like God loves me.”
Ephesians 4 says that there is coming a generation of people who live by their feelings. They have given themselves unto uncontrolled, unrestrained emotions, feelings, and desires (lasciviousness). They are going beyond the natural, normal use of their feelings or emotions,

*They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.* Ephesians 4:19 NLT

B. There is a place for emotions, but it’s not the place it occupies with most people.

C. We have gone beyond feelings into lasciviousness—to where we have to feel everything for it to be real.

D. It’s only the truth—the real Truth, not the “truth” that you feel, that’s going to set you free (John 8:32).

E. God intends for you to rule your emotions, not for your emotions to rule you.

F. We know God loves us because “The Bible tells us so.”

**God’s Love is Unconditional**

I. The Lord’s great grace for us was motivated by His love for us, not because we are lovely, but because He is love.

*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.*

Ephesians 2:4 NKJV

A. God’s love for me is not tied to any worth or value of my own.

B. As a believer in Jesus, I am not into self-esteem—I’m into Christ-esteem. I appreciate what God has done, through Jesus.

C. My spirit is born again, but I still have flesh—so that part of me doesn’t contribute to my relationship with God. Flesh doesn’t matter, but faith does.

*Gal. 5:16 As far as our relationship to Christ Jesus is concerned, it doesn’t matter whether we are circumcised or not. But what matters is a faith that expresses itself through love.*

II. God gave you the ability to be depressed and discouraged (to feel unloved), but not so you could live there.

*Isaiah 26:3-4 NLT You (God) will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed [turn often] on you! Trust in the LORD always, for the LORD GOD is the eternal Rock [everlasting strength]. [TLB]*
A. If you’re depressed, you aren’t thinking about God and His love for you, you are thinking about you and your love for you.

B. When discouragement comes against me, I don’t ignore it—I recognize that I need to be focused on the Lord. So I turn my thoughts back on the Lord, and my feelings realign to the Word.

D. But even when I’m not feeling right, I don’t start disbelieving that God loves me because I don’t feel it.

III. God favors you based on His love—not based on your performance.

Ephesians 2:8 TEV *For it is by God’s grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God’s gift.* God’s gift of love.

*But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation.* Romans 5:8-9 NLT

If God loved you so much that He died for you while you were yet a sinner, then how much more does He love you now that you’re born again! If you are still putting your faith and confidence in yourself you will never truly understand God’s love. That’s why God gave the Old Testament Law, to expose how ungodly, unworthy we are and to bring us to the end of ourselves. Only when you come to the end of yourself do you find the beginning of God’s love.

**Religion or Relationship?**

I. **Love will be a greater motivation to trust and serve God than fear ever was.**

A. Fear has torment (1 John 4:18).

B. You can’t have a good relationship with God if you’re basing it upon your performance and fear.

II. **God loves you because He’s a good God—it’s grace!**

A. Your faith is a response to Him.

B. You need to understand that God loves you and deals with you by grace.

C. He’s already forgiven all of your sins.

You need to quit sinning so you don’t let Satan have an inroad into your life, but your holiness—or lack thereof—is not the basis of your relationship with God.
III. By understanding and applying these truths to your life, you’ll move to a whole new level of relationship with God.

A. Understanding God’s unconditional love makes it so easy to believe and trust Him.
   We should be spending more time thinking about how much God truly loves us.
   This kind of intimacy and relationship with God isn’t just possible—it’s what He created us for in the first place (remember Eden?).

B. It’s what religion and tradition has taught you about God that hinders you from enjoying Him.

C. When you understand the truth of how much He loves you and how good He really is, your favorite thing to do will be to just love and hang out with Him.

D. You will :
   - Never doubt your eternal salvation.
   - Never think that you are not good enough.
   - Never doubt that He is healing you.
   - Never doubt that He is providing for your needs.
   - Never think that He is the author of bad things in your life. (Think about the choices you made)
   - Never feel unloved.
   - Never fear the future.

IV. But, you must be born again. You must accept His love gift.

A. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, 2,000 years ago to pay for all of your sins.

B. That payment has already been made—have you really accepted it as a free gift?

C. Romans 10:9 CEV *So you will be saved, if you honestly say, “Jesus is Lord,” and if you believe with all your heart that God raised him from death.*
   Making Jesus your Lord means He’s in control.
   It’s about what Jesus did and you must receive salvation as a gift.
   You might need to pray:
   
   *Jesus, I confess that You are my Lord. I turn from trusting in myself and my own works for salvation. I believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead, and I receive Your gift of salvation by faith. Thank You for revealing Your love and grace to me.*
D. Understanding the truth of God’s unconditional love must come by revelation. That’s a job of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:13-14 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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

E. Revelation knowledge is the number one benefit of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The very Person who inspired the Bible will begin teaching you what it means. Once you are born again you need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Receive the Holy Spirit

A. All you have to do to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit is ask, believe, and receive.

Luke 11:10, 13 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened…how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

B. Pray from you heart something like this:

Father, I recognize my need for Your power to understand Your Word and to live this new life. I desire to receive Your revelation knowledge. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. By faith, I receive it right now. Thank you for filling me, Holy Spirit. you are welcome in my life!

Now you are filled with God’s supernatural power and revelation.

C. Some sounds (syllables) from a language you don’t recognize will rise up from your heart to your mouth.

1 Corinthians 14:14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

D. As you speak them out loud by faith, you are releasing God’s power from within and building yourself up in the spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself,

You can do this whenever and wherever you like!

It doesn’t matter whether you felt anything or not when you prayed to receive the fullness of the Spirit. If you believed in your heart that you received, then God’s Word promises that you did. Mark 11:24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.