

Our Needs: Love

Love is probably the greatest of all of our soul needs.

When we try to get our need of love met by people, it creates a problem. That's because we were not meant to do that. We are created to be loved by God.

- Our love is reciprocal based. We love someone else because they love us. If you are attracted to someone, then they feel appreciated by that they may return that in the form of love, and then we love them back and as long as all goes well – we love each other.
- This model falls apart quickly because we aren't capable of true agape love in and of ourselves.
- Even our love for God is reciprocal based.
 - **1 John 4:19** We love Him because He first loved us.

How do we get our needs met by God?

We simply allow Him to love us and accept that love.

So why is it more complicated than that?

We have a distorted view of God as Father. We have bad theology. We have distorted views of ourselves. We have wounds. We have flesh. We have an enemy trying to convince us God does not love us and all these must be dealt with in order for us to really receive His love for us fully.

Where should we get our image of God the Father?

From Scripture:

- **1 John 4:8** Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

His Names (which are also in Scripture):

- Jehovah Jireh: The LORD our provider
- Jehovah Rapha: The LORD our Healer
- Jehovah Nissi: The LORD our Banner
- Jehovah Shalom: The LORD our Peace
- Jehovah Raah: The LORD our Shepherd
- Jehovah Tsidkenu: The LORD our Righteousness
- Jehovah Shammah: The LORD is Here
- And so many more!!!

By watching and listening to Jesus, His Son:

- **John 14: 9-10** Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works.”
- Jesus is the exact representation of the Father. If you want to know the Father, look at the Son.

So, if Jesus is just like His Father, what do we see in Jesus?

- Unconditional love
- Accepting even with failure and sin
- Compassion
- Forgiving
- Truthful
- Kind
- Full of grace
- Joyful
- So much more!!!

Jesus’ Baptism shows us the Father’s Love

- **Matthew 3:16-17** When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- We see four things from God in this passage:
 - God was present
 - God gave Jesus a gift
 - God loves His Son
 - God proudly proclaimed His love publicly for His Son
- What had Jesus done at this point in His life to deserve this?
 - Nothing. No miracles, no healings, no sermons, no dead raised.
 - He was His Son. That is all.
 - At the mount of transfiguration, God says the same thing. Even after successful ministry, God's opinion of Jesus did not changed.

What about us? We are His children, co-heirs with Christ.

- It is the same for us.
- God's love is truly unconditional.
- And He says the same thing about each of us.

We are His treasured sons and daughters. He is our Dad, our Abba, Father.

- **Romans 8:15-17** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.
- You are in the center of Father God's heart. Father loves you and you are always on His mind!
- You are His priceless treasure. He thinks about you all the time.
- He carries us close to His heart.

How do we get the need for love met by God?

God is already loving us, so the first thing to do is to remove all blocks from receiving His love!

Blocks to Receiving Father's Love

Unforgiveness

1. Others: holding unforgiveness towards others.

- **2 Corinthians 2:10-11** Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.
- **Matthew 5:23-24** Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

2. Self (shame, self-hate): holding unforgiveness towards yourself.

- **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
- **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **God has already forgiven us. When we forgive ourselves, we are simply agreeing with God.**

3. God: not forgiving God for His actions (even perceived) like death of a family member, or other event

Trauma(deliverance, inner healing)

- Wounds from our past that affect our relationship with God.
- Things we may need deliverance from (occult practices — even if they seemed innocent, curses, etc...)

Distorted belief systems

1. God: having a wrong view of who God is. Seeing Him as distant, angry, uninterested, etc...

- **Hebrews 12:5-6** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”
- **Jeremiah 31:3** The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

2. Self: believing you are unworthy, less than, etc...

- Past failures
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- Legalism (have to earn it)
 - **Romans 3:20-22** Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

3. Others

- **2 Corinthians 5:16-17** Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- We can't carry around judgments of others, prejudices, etc...

Inner vows and judgments

Things we have sworn to ourselves, even curses we may have placed on ourselves.

- **Matthew 5:34-37** But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Stop believing the lies from the enemy.

- **1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- **2 Corinthians 11:3** But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

And finally...

Spend time with the Father.

- All relationships with love in them have time built into them
- Story of walking on the beach and graffiti.