



GOD'S GREAT LOVE

THE FOUNDATIONS-FOR-LIFE SERIES
VOLUME 6

The Foundations-For-Life Series by Rachel Burchfield
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The Foundations-For-Life series was written originally to support young adults in their commitment to follow Jesus Christ. The first workbook, The Adventures of Following Jesus, was written in 1994 exclusively for the students of Texas Bible Institute. Each of the remaining nine workbooks also teach timeless truths and provide answers found in God's Word, the Holy Bible. TBI is an outreach of Burchfield Ministries International, Inc. in Columbus, Texas.

After thirty years of serving as TBI's President, Rachel Burchfield has revised her time-proven Foundations-For-Life series to equip all ages. Teens and adults can now become Strong In Life through TBI's Distance Learning Program, while the on campus option still remains an option exclusively for 17 - 25 years of age.

The overall objective of the Foundations-For-Life series is to:
Make unshakeable disciples for Jesus Christ
Create a love for the inspired Word of God
Introduce the adventures of being a bold Bible believer

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Statement of Faith

Burchfield Ministries International, Inc. believes in the inspiration of Scripture which reveals the Fatherhood of a Creator God, eternal life found only in His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in every believer for guidance, comfort, and strength. To review BMI's complete Statement of Faith, visit burchfield.org.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



1983

Dear Sons and Daughters,

Welcome to the great adventure of following Jesus Christ!

We are proud that you have chosen to build your life on God's unchanging Word. The decisions you are making during these treasured TBI months will determine the course of your life, family, and future legacy. Pastor Tommy and I both made those same choices fifty years ago!



2003

This "Foundations-For-Life" curriculum was written exclusively for our dear Texas Bible Institute students. Thousands of TBI Alumni from thirty-nine states and forty-two nations are now "Strong For Life" and fulfilling God's purpose for their lives. Now, it's your turn!

Building strong foundations occurs when you accept the inspired Word of God as the final authority in your life. Once you learn that the Bible is a living love letter from your Father, it will become a joy. Settle it forever that God is good, His ways are perfect, and miracles still happen.



2021

So, dear one, read and re-read this workbook until you've "made it your own." As you mature in Christ, these writings will serve as reference manuals for your own miracle moments, and you'll be Strong For Life.

In His Joy,

Pastors Tommy and Rachel Burchfield

Founder and President, Texas Bible Institute

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11

WHAT WE BELIEVE

GOD IS OUR FATHER



As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. Psalm 103:13

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort...
II Corinthians 1:3*

JESUS CHRIST IS OUR SAVIOR



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John. 3:16

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

THE HOLY SPIRIT EQUIPS BELIEVERS



However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. John 16:13

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me... to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

THE HOLY BIBLE CAN BE TRUSTED



Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." Matthew 24:35

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. II Timothy 3:16

Reading scripture aloud increases comprehension.
For a complete BMI Statement of Faith, visit burchfield.org.

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God's love changes everything.



Chapter 1

THE FATHER'S LOVE

A *rich girl* attended a camp in the Rocky Mountains each summer. She welcomed a first-timer, a poor child, with this greeting, "That yacht in the lake, house on the mountain, and plane in the sky belongs to *my Daddy.*"

The *poor girl* replied, "That's nice, but that lake, mountain, and big sky that your daddy is using is owned by *my Father.*"



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter One scriptures in your Bible.

II CORINTHIANS 6:18

"I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty.

I PETER 1:23

"...Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever..."

Looking Ahead:

- Four facts about identity
- DNA paternity test
- Dealing with rejection

*When you read the Bible,
the Bible reads you.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

A Personal Invitation To A Love Affair ...



THE FATHER'S LOVE

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! I Jn. 3:1

God loves you. Your journey towards wholeness begins by experiencing your Father's love. This workbook will introduce you to an unlimited, extravagant love that comes only from a perfect God. Not just a cosmic god, but, if you are born again, a God who is your Father. It all begins with your identity being correct.

God's love settles the restless heart. It is the ultimate satisfier. Until you are secure in the Father's love towards you, you'll find yourself in a frantic juggle of religious demands or secular solutions. But juggling is not necessary. At this very moment, you can stop the frantic search and let His love scoop you up into the Father's heart.

God's great love is like an orange. Each section represents a different "taste" of His love. As you trust Him with your life, you'll experience each expression. Healing and wholeness will come.

Your Search For Significance

Within every human heart is the cry for significance. "Who am I? Why am I here?" These are the probing questions on your search for identity. People who know their identity are secure and confident, but those who don't suffer an identity crisis, a period of uncertainty and confusion in which a person's sense of identity becomes insecure. This lack of awareness often explains why teens dye their hair purple or leave their spouse for someone twenty years younger.

Four Facts About Identity

- Your identity is not **what** you do; *cheerleader, accountant, youth pastor*
- Your identity is not **what** was done to you; *sexually abused, a victim of discrimination*
- Your identity is not **who** you are; *Hispanic, dyslexic, the coach's kid*
- Your identity is **Whose** you are: *A child of God*

Your Paternal DNA Test Results!

It was the sperm of your earthly father who gave you life. Whether you know him or not, you are your father's child. It is in the DNA of his sperm that proves paternity. We are speaking of your earthly dad here, but you have a spiritual father, too.

...Having been born again, not of corruptible seed (sperm) but incorruptible, (seed, sperm) through the word of God which lives and abides forever. I Pet. 1:23

The results are in! Your Father is God!

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is

_____ ... I Jn. 5:1

*Your birth was
not an accident.*

Say this out loud:

" GOD IS MY FATHER. I AM MY FATHER'S CHILD. "
MY FATHER IS GOD. I AM A CHILD OF GOD.

Everyone who is truly God's child will refuse to keep sinning because God's seed remains within him, and he is unable to continue sinning because he has been fathered by God himself.
1 Jn. 3:9 TPT

Your search for significance is over. Your identity as a child of God will become a launching pad for every decision you make, and your Father will become your go-to person for every experience of life. Your mother might have told you that you were an accident, but your Father says differently. His love birthed you. His love welcomes you into His family. His love is with you right now as you study this workbook. Your Father's love is reaching out for you today. **No matter who you are, no matter what you've done, Jesus Christ loves you.**

What Manner Of Love Is This?

An attempt to describe your Father's love is almost impossible. He loves without placing any conditions on the loved ones. The love God has towards you is unconditional. His character, not your behavior, defines his love.

T F
T F

There is nothing good you can do to make God love you more.

There is nothing wrong you can do to make God love you less.

Just Believe

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 1 Jn. 4:16

We love Him because He first loved us. 1 Jn. 4:19

- Before I was _____, He loved me.

Circle one:

abused

disappointed

traumatized

isolated

anxious

rejected

Something extraordinary happens to a person who holds on to the love of God.

How can you learn about this love?

God's unconditional love is most clearly seen in the gospels as we learn about Jesus and His actions and reactions towards people. Paul explained the Father's love in his letter to the Romans. John's descriptions are powerful in his writings, too. Allow these ten descriptions of God's love to satisfy your need for significance.



**THE FATHER'S LOVE
MEANS IDENTITY.**

TEN DESCRIPTIONS OF YOUR FATHER'S LOVE

Understanding the different *manner* of God's love helps us to see its immeasurable *magnitude*.

1. An Unconditional Love

God _____ love. *1 Jn. 4:16*

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 1 Jn. 4:16 NLT

Confession of Faith: My Father's love **accepts** me.

2. An Inviting Love

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me, and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me, and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Mt. 11:28 Msg.

Confession of Faith: My Father's love **includes** me.

3. An Initiating Love

*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the _____
_____ for our sins. 1 Jn. 4:10*

Confession of Faith: My Father's love gives me **value**.

4. A Defining Love

*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the _____
_____ I Jn. 3:1*

Confession of Faith: My Father's love gives you **identity**.

5. An Undeserved Love

*But God demonstrates His own love in that while we _____
_____, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8*

Confession of Faith: My Father's love gives me **hope**.

You are okay. You are enough. You are a child of God.

6. A Sacrificial Love

Greater love has no one than this, than to _____ one's life for his friends. Jn. 15:13

Confession of Faith: My Father's love was **sacrificial**.

7. An Inseparable Love

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... For I am convinced that neither _____ nor life, neither angels nor _____, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD. Rom. 8:35, 38-39 NIV

Confession of Faith: My Father's love is **inseparable**.

8. A Conquering Love ---

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who _____
Rom. 8:37 NIV*

Confession of Faith: My Father's love **makes me win**.

9. A Stabilizing Love

*... that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being _____
and _____ in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph. 3:17-19*

Confession of Faith: My Father's love makes me **stable**.

10. An Extravagant Love

"...You have sent me, and have _____ as You have loved Me." Jn. 17:23

It's true! God loves you as much as He loves Jesus. But, will you dare to say that aloud? Will you dare to believe it?

Confession of Faith - My Father's love is **extravagant**.

Your journey towards wholeness begins with your Father's love.

THE FATHER'S LOVE

01

Your identity comes from Whose you are,
not what you do.

02

Your identity as a child of God breeds
security and confidence.

03

Jesus came to show us the Father's love.

04

Each of the many expressions of the Father's
love brings wholeness.



Supporting Scriptures

Ps. 147:3

Rom. 8:35-39

I Jn. 3:1

Rom. 5:8

I Cor. 8:6

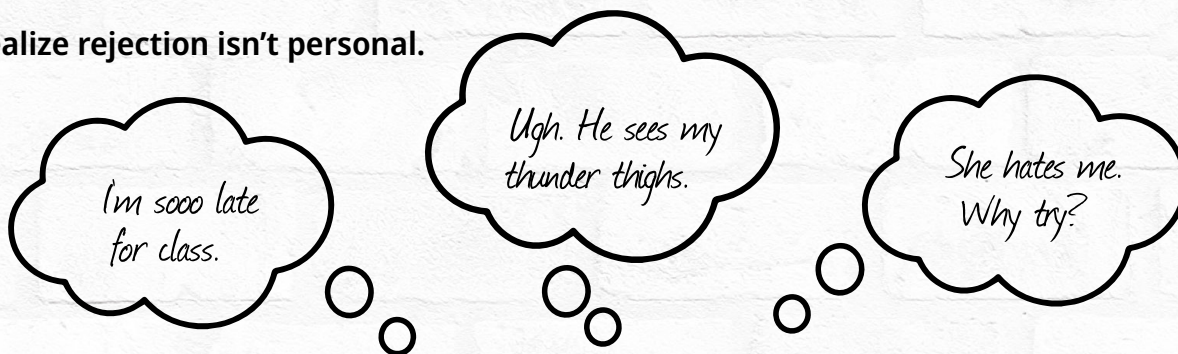
I Jn. 4:16

The "I-Am-Wanted" Love

If God is for us, who can be against us? Rom. 8:31

Rejection - It always hurts, and it usually hurts more than we expected it to. The question is, why? Why are we so bothered when a colleague declines lunch or a good friend doesn't "like" your photo on social media? The answer is simple. We look to people to provide what only God can give. God's great love is our answer to insecurity. So, how should we respond to rejection?

Realize rejection isn't personal.



Reject rejection. List three qualities that make you a good friend.

Retaliate rejection.

- If they didn't "like" your page, scroll through and "like" every page you can.
- If someone didn't invite you for lunch, invite someone else over for pizza.

Although we were created to need people, our primary joy of feeling wanted must come first from God's great love. We love Him because He first loved us. 1 Jn. 4:19

Loved people love people.



The Father's love gives me IDENTITY.

Reflection _____



SEARCH

Mary Magdalene
Demons destroyed her.
Jesus loved her.

LK. 8:2, JN. 20:11

God's love changes everything.



Chapter 2

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE

God has *moods*, but He is not *moody*.

You can go to sleep tonight assured that His love for you won't *change* through the night. Similar to the sunrise, you can expect Him each morning. His *steadfast love* is like that sunrise: dependable, predictable, *unfailing*.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Two scriptures in your Bible.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,
because His compassions fail not. They are new
every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

HEBREWS 13:5 AMPC

He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor
give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will]
not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake
nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]

LOOKING AHEAD

- Sunrise love
- Therapy vs. Scriptures
- Dealing with abandonment

*The Bible breaks hard hearts
and heals broken hearts.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE

God's steadfast (or unfailing love) is a constant theme woven throughout the Bible. Unlike human love, which is conditional and quickly depleted, the steadfast love of God is unlimited. It is a love that never stops.

WORD PICTURE: SUNRISE

It's foolish to worry whether the sun will rise. It's predictable. It's changeless. It's dependable. Lamentations 3:23 describes God's love as, "new every morning." It's also unchanging. Whether you see the morning sun or not, it's there. Perhaps it's hidden by clouds, yet its presence brings light to the world. God's love for you sometimes might seem hidden, but His presence is a reality and reaching out to you right now. Respond to His love.

- *Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed. For His compassions never fail. They are **new every morning**; great is Your faithfulness. Lam. 3:22-23 NIV*
- *His [tender] compassions fail not. They are new every morning; **great and abundant** is Your stability and faithfulness. Lam. 3:22-23 AMPC*



BIBLE STUDY TIP: Use a dictionary for synonyms of keywords.

Twelve Shades of Steadfast

Marvel at these twelve synonyms for steadfast. Circle your favorite: unwavering, firmly established, changeless, constant, dependable, unfailing, predictable, sure, unmovable, unflinching, relentless, loyal.



BIBLE STUDY TIP: Reading different Bible translations provides a new perspective.

One Verse, Three Translations

- *Eph. 2:4 NKJV – But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us...made us alive...*
- *Eph. 2:4 AMP – But God – so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loves us...*
- *Eph. 2:3-4 Msg. – It's a wonder that God didn't lose His temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, He embraced us.*

List three words that describe God in Ephesians 2:4:

List the four adjectives for God's love in these different versions.



**GOD'S GREAT LOVE
MEANS SECURITY.**

Respond to His love now.

HUMAN LOVE VS. GOD'S LOVE

- Has conditions; a measure-up mentality
- Is picky and exclusive
- "What's in this for me?"
- Limited
- Depends on their behavior
- Needs to be earned
- "I'll love you if..."

- God's love is unconditional
- Is accepting and all-inclusive
- "What's in Me for Him?"
- Unlimited
- Depends on His character
- Needs to be spent
- "I love you, regardless"

HUMAN LOVE SAYS: "If you'll _____, then I'll love you."

- Wear the right clothes
- Lose 25 pounds
- Speak politically correct
- Fulfill me sexually

In contrast to human love, God's steadfast love for you is unconditional.

AMAZING FACTS ABOUT GOD'S LOVE

- ✓ You can't earn it.
- ✓ You can't lose it.
- ✓ You can't buy it.
- ✓ You can't hide from it.

Q. WHAT MUST YOU DO FOR GOD TO LOVE YOU? A. NOTHING.

Steadfast Love and Emotional Healing

Not all wounds are visible. Many of you suffer from trauma that prevents you from living emotionally free. One in five Americans have a diagnosed mental illness, and an even higher group have life-altering mental health issues. You shouldn't be embarrassed or feel guilty if you're dealing with an emotional issue, but you also shouldn't swallow the lie that you need to learn to manage it for the rest of your life. God's steadfast love is a healing love and the solution for many of these disorders.

Your Father Is Good

Every earthly father wants his children to be healed, whole, and happy. No one delights in seeing their child suffer. No, they want the best for their children. If an earthly dad desires good, how much more your Father God wants to heal His children. Jesus suffered on Calvary to purchase emotional healing for you. **Look at this powerful promise for you and all who suffer emotional trauma and mental health issues:**

Surely, He has borne our _____ and carried our _____ ...Is. 53:4



God's love is unconditional, unlimited, and complete.

What (emotional) griefs and sorrows did Jesus carry for you?

- Abandonment
- Anorexia
- Anxiety
- Bulimia
- Rejection
- PTSD
- Depression
- Panic attacks
- Stress
- Fear / Phobias
- Anything that affects your mental or emotional health

Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment] Is. 53:4 AMPC

One Healer, Eight Pathways

There are many methods that God can use to relieve you of emotional trauma, and the Holy Spirit will guide you on how to begin. Common pathways for healing of the physical body and mind comes through:

- The Word of God
- His presence; prayer, worship
- Gifts of the Spirit
- Laying on of hands
- Mental Health Professionals
- The medical community; medicine, surgery, etc.
- Alternative medicine
- Biblical Counseling

To find your healing pathway, you can use the front door, side, or back door. I would suggest that you depend on Him first and foremost because Jesus is the Door.

Jesus Paid For Your Peace

What a loving Father you have. Most people think that Jesus died on Calvary to cover their sins only, but His death also covered your sicknesses and emotional well-being. Jesus paid for your peace. Period. Let's read this powerful promise from Isaiah 53:4 in three versions:

- *The chastisement for our peace was upon Him. Is. 53:5 NKJV*
- *...the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole. Is. 53:5 AMPC*
- *He endured the punishment that made us completely whole, and in His wounding we found our healing. Is. 53:5 TPT*

God's Steadfast Love and Abandonment

A predominant mental health issue is abandonment which usually stems from childhood loss through a parent's neglect, divorce, or death. Unmet emotional or physical needs can cause a lifetime of destructive coping mechanisms and are the perfect storm for anxiety disorders. Often, an underlying fear of being abandoned becomes a stronghold, and symptoms may not appear until adulthood when relational problems expose it.

Common signs of abandonment issues include:

- Giving too much or being overly eager to please
- Trouble trusting your partner's intentions
- Having difficulty in feeling intimate emotionally
- Feeling insecure about your relationship
- Needing to control or be controlled by your partner
- Settling in unsatisfactory relationships
- Jealousy in your relationship or of others

The wounds of being (or feeling) abandoned run deep, but there is healing available.

Mental health therapists have studied the brain's physical development and address destructive patterns through therapy and medication. On the other hand, Father God, who created your brain, has already provided health principles in His Word and reversed the curse of sickness and disease on Calvary. Both God and therapists want you well.

Mental Health professionals do offer some good advice, but therapy can be time-consuming and expensive. Some of their techniques are questionable, and therapists' "new" principles are not new at all. They come straight from God's Word! Do Christians who receive secular therapy lack faith? No. Is therapy your only hope for healing? No. I suggest you learn all you can from secular therapy and mix it with the promises of God's Word. (*Wise people store up knowledge. Prv. 10:14*) Let's compare these similar solutions to dealing with abandonment issues.

Mental Health Therapists

- Identify negative thought patterns.
- Replace them with healthier ones.
- Grieve their losses.
- Move beyond self-pity.
- Establish healthy boundaries.
- Ground yourself.
- Anti-anxiety medications.

God's Word, God's Prescription

- Renew your mind. *Rom. 12:2*
- Think on these things. *Ph. 4:8*
- Weep with others. *Rom. 12:15*
- Reach forward. *Ph. 3:13*
- Ponder your path. *Prv. 4:26*
- Verbalize your trust in God. *Ps. 18:2*
- Peace of God guards your mind. *Ph. 4:7*



Father God's Anti-Anxiety Prescription

He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!] Heb. 13:5 AMPC

God's steadfast love, through this one promise alone, will expel a spirit of fear and replace it with courage. Memorize it. Meditate on it. Say it out loud. Learn to pray the Word of God and prepare for a powerful deliverance from all abandonment issues.

God's steadfast love is predictable, dependable, and here for you right now.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
- Jesus Christ, *Mat. 28:20*

Quit trying to earn something you already have.

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE

01

God's steadfast love is like the sunrise;
predictable and dependable.

02

God's unconditional love is based on His
character, not your performance.

03

Human love demands expectations or
conditions be met.

04

God's steadfast love is the healing solution
for emotional trauma.



Supporting Scriptures

Dt. 7:9

Ps. 107:1

Lam. 3:22-23

Ps. 36:5

Ps. 117:1-2

Heb. 13:5

The "I-Am-Safe" Love

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. Ps. 139:17

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| _____ God knows everything about you. | A. Psalm 139:24 |
| _____ God knows your thoughts. | B. Psalm 139:17 |
| _____ God sees you when you travel. | C. Psalm 139:7 |
| _____ Before I speak, God knows what I'll say. | D. Psalm 139:1 |
| _____ God's hand of blessing is upon me. | E. Psalm 139:5 |
| _____ God's blessing is too great to understand. | F. Psalm 139:18 |
| _____ Your presence is everywhere. | G. Psalm 139:3 |
| _____ God made me and I'm wonderful. | H. Psalm 139:2 |
| _____ God's thoughts towards me are precious. | I. Psalm 139:4 |
| _____ God's thoughts about me outnumber the sand. | J. Psalm 139:14 |
| _____ God is leading me on the path to everlasting life. | K. Psalm 139:6 |



God's steadfast love gives me SECURITY.

Reflection _____

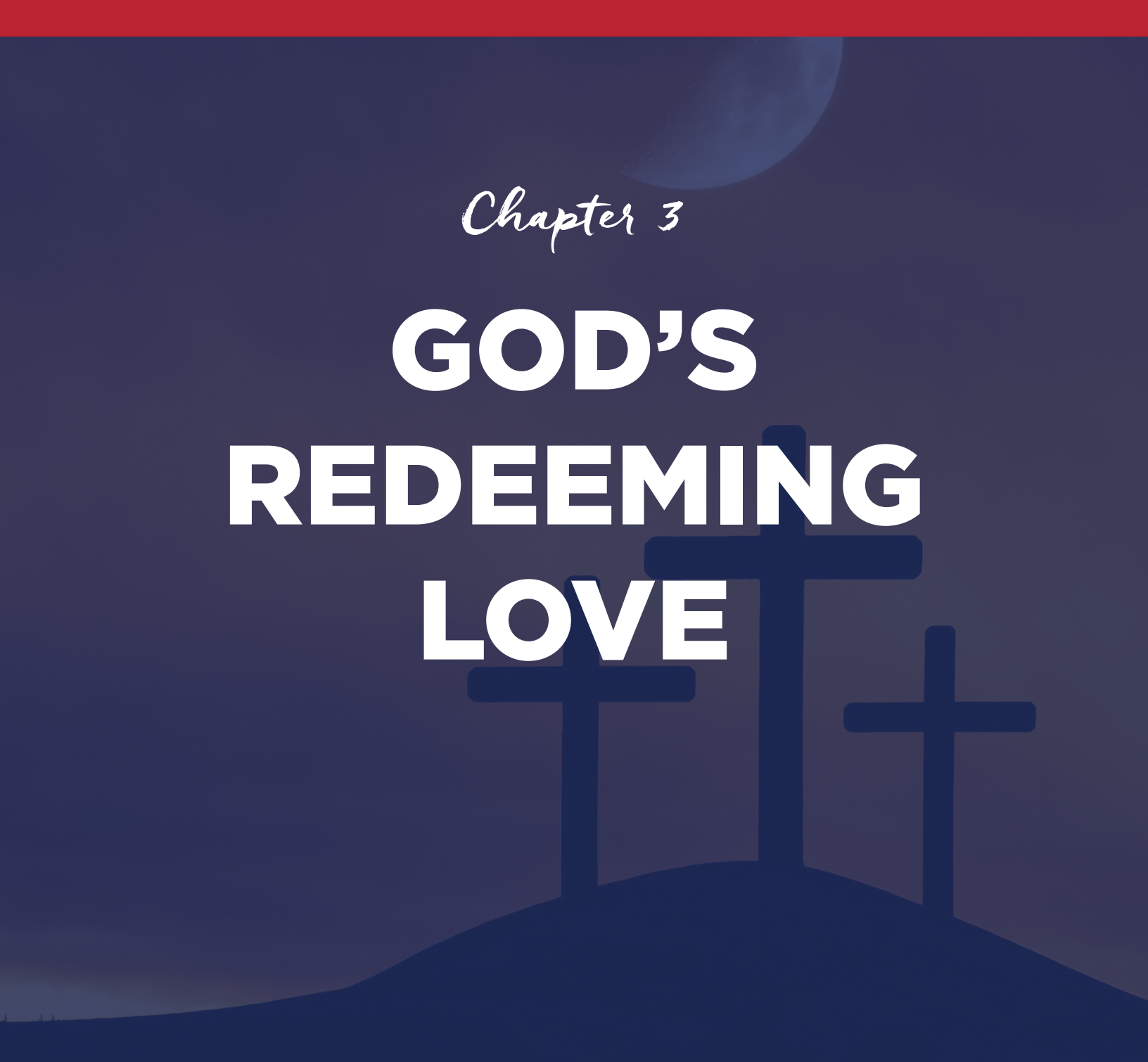


SEARCH

Meet Priscilla and Aquilla
Opened their home in
Ephesus. Revival.

1 COR. 16:19

God's love changes everything.



Chapter 3

GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE

A farmer's prize goat was *kidnapped* and left for dead in a ditch. When the animal was finally located, the *legs were tied* together, but it was still alive. The frantic farmer crawled down into a deep ditch to *rescue* his furry friend, cut off the ropes, and dragged him up to safety. A few hours later, that dumb ol' goat was still laying there!

Freed, but living bound.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Three scriptures in your Bible.

HEBREWS 9:12

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

I PETER 1:18

...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers...

LOOKING AHEAD

- A slave's life
- Redeem = freedom
- Solutions for guilt

*Build your life on the
unchanging Word of God.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE

God's redeeming love paid your sin debt, delivered you from the power of sin, and transferred your position from slave to son. It makes you forgiven and internally free.

Word Pictures:

- A master releases his slave to a new life of freedom
- A bond officer says, "Someone paid your bail, so you're free."
- A guitarist walks into a pawn shop and buys back his Gibson which was stolen from him the previous month.

Today we will study one of the Bible's strongest words: **Redeem**

Redemption Described: Freedom For Slaves

The word *redeem* comes directly from the world of ancient slave markets. To properly understand this principle of redemption and explore its richness in meaning, let's meditate on a slave's world during the peak of the Roman Empire:

A Slave's World

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| • Chains | • Flogging | • Slave Market |
| • Shackles | • Iron grips | • Lutroo |
| • Auction Block | • Abuse | |

Redeem - There are four different words used, each having a different picture of freedom.

- | | |
|--|--|
| • <i>Padah, Hbw.</i> – liberate, free, release | • <i>Apolutrosis, Gr.</i> – a ransom |
| • <i>Ga'al, Gr.</i> – repurchase, to buy back | • <i>Exagoridzo, Gr.</i> – out of the slave market |

A Slave's Life

The people in Jesus' and Paul's day understood slavery. Some sixty million slaves were living at that time throughout the Roman Empire. In the Imperial City alone, it is estimated that 350,000 slaves dwelled and worked among the socially favored. That's 25% of Rome's population, one out of every four people! Slavery in ancient Rome differed from its modern forms in that it was not based on race. But like modern slavery, it was an abusive and degrading institution. Cruelty was commonplace.

Slave Markets

Slave markets were disgusting places where human beings were bought, sold, and traded like animals. Here's how they did it. Prisoners were taken to the slave markets where they were paraded naked, with placards around their necks explaining their best and worst qualities. The cost of a slave in today's economy ranges from \$250 - \$150,000.

Rome's Demeaning Process To Purchase A Slave

1. Go to the slave market early before the "good ones" get sold.
2. After the selection, evaluate his stamina and response by beating him.
3. Look at his teeth and examine his general health.
4. Go to the auction and bid.
5. Slave is sold and becomes the personal property of the highest bidder.
6. That slave is now owned by, under the control of, and at the mercy of a new master.

YEBAY - Slaves For Sale *(Historical fiction)*

GENDER	AGE	SKILL	PRICE
Male	30	Aqueduct Manager, Strong, Good Teeth	875,000 Denari
Male	22	Loyal, No Skills, Good for Errands, Sickly	500 Denari
Female	30	Nurse, Compliant, Back Injury Healed	1,800 Denari
Female	20	Musician, Pretty, Healthy	6,000 Denari

Imagine the humiliation of being stripped in public while on an auction block. Feel the agony of a father watching his naked daughter surrounded by lust-driven men and being made a spectacle. A slave's destiny was condensed to endless days of manual labor, often mingled with unjust treatment from an angry master. There was one hint of hope for a slave. A lutroo might arrive and purchase your freedom!

Jesus Was Our Lutroo

At times, a caring and compassionate individual, called a lutroo, would come to the slave market and pay an exceptionally high price for the sole purpose of purchasing slaves out of slavery to liberate and set them free. In this case, the payment offered was viewed as a ransom. Therefore, it's safe to portray Jesus Christ as our lutroo because:

The world is Satan's slave market.
Jesus came looking for us.
Jesus longed to purchase us for His Father.
Jesus paid the ultimate price with His blood.
His blood liberated us from Satan's power forever.

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem (lutroo, Gr.) us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Titus 2:14

*Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by _____
He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained _____
redemption for us. Heb. 9:12 KJV*

Redemption Alert!

For you to appreciate God's redeeming love, you must realize the dreadful, hopeless state that you were in spiritually before you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior. Forever separated from your Father. No guidance. No love or friendship with Him. Why? You were a sinner by birth, by nature, and by choice. In fact, you were *born* a slave.

All humankind is born under the curse of sin. Sin was your cruel master. Your sin-master made you wear different hats: a guilty hat, a selfish ambition hat, an addiction hat, a fear hat, or perhaps the self-pity hat. Until you were born again, you were all slaves to sin.

Born a slave, born again a son.

Everyone who sins is a _____ of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a _____ is part of the family forever.

Jn. 8:34-35 NLT

That's difficult to believe when you meet well-meaning, morally strong, educated people. The truth is, however, that their spirit man is dead, and they are slaves to sin. A quick study of Romans chapter six reveals more about our sinful nature.

Therefore you are no longer a _____ but a _____ and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. *Gal. 4:7*

Born a slave. Born again a son.

Redemption Requires Blood



BIBLE PRINCIPLE: The payment for sin is blood.

From Genesis to Revelation, we can find this truth revealed. Here are a few key examples, but there are many more that you'll want you to discover.

- Gen. 3:21 – Blood was shed so the Lord could cover Adam and Eve's sin with animal tunics.
- Gen. 22:8 – Blood of a ram became a substitute for Abraham's son, Isaac.
- Ex. 12:13 – The blood of a lamb caused death to "pass over" Israel.
- Lev. 16:8 – Blood of many animals offered by High Priest annually to cover sins of Israel's Day of Atonement.
- Lev. 17:11 – The life of the flesh is in the blood. *Heb. 9:22*
- Jn. 1:29 – John acknowledged Jesus as the Lamb of God.
- Col. 1:14 – Blood of Jesus purchased our redemption and forgiveness of sins.
- Heb. 9:12 – Jesus, our High Priest, obtained our eternal redemption with His own blood.
- Rev. 5:9 – Heaven's song honors the blood of Jesus.

Redemption Recorded

Apolutrosis, Gr. - A super-sized version of 'Lutro,' *Gr.*, implying a permanent release secured by the payment of a ransom, deliverance, setting free. In the New Testament, it designates deliverance through Christ from evil and the penalty of sin. The price paid to purchase that liberation was His shed blood. *

*Strong's Concordance #629

Make much of the blood of Jesus!

Highlight these
"power-in-the-
blood" scriptures.

- Eph. 1:7 NKJV - *In Him we have redemption (apolutrosis) by His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*
- Eph. 1:7 Msg - *Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we are a free people - free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. Abundantly free!*
- Rev. 5:9 NKJV - *...and they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, for you were slain and have redeemed (apolutrosis) us to God by your blood..."*
- Rev. 5:9 Msg - *...and they sang a new song, worthy! Slain! Paying in blood, you bought men and women back for God...*
- Rom. 3:24 NKJV - *...being justified freely by His grace through the redemption (apolutrosis) that is in Christ Jesus...*
- Rom. 3:24 Msg - *...He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.*
- I Pt. 1:18 NKJV - *...knowing that you were not redeemed (apolutrosis) with corruptible things, like silver or gold... but with the precious blood of Christ...*
- I Pt. 1:18 Msg - *It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know.*

Redemption Releases You From Sin's Power

What's Wrong With This Picture?

- Imagine if three American soldiers were held hostage in the Middle East for six years. Their rescue is complete, and they are on United Airlines coming home. They are wearing blindfolds.
- Construction on I-10 has forced you to detour an inconvenient twelve extra miles for three months. A new toll road is now open (and free) for 90 days, but you continue on the same lengthy detour.
- The warden opens your jail cell and says you are free! You remain there for another two weeks until he shouts, "Hey, man, you're free! Get outta here!" You walk out a free man, but six months later, you apply for a job still wearing the same orange prison uniform.

Freed, yet not free. Many believers are like that today. Redemption releases you from eternal death and from the power of sin that would try to keep you bound by its unholy, addictive, destructive appetites. Let's remember that Lazarus was raised from the dead but still bound by grave clothes. Jn. 11:44

Let the redeemed of the Lord _____ so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy. Ps. 107:2

Confessions of Faith:

God's Word in your mouth releases God's power in your life. Say it! *I am redeemed.*

*Jesus
redeemed me*

*I am blood-
bought.*

*I am
free!*



**GOD'S GREAT LOVE
MEANS FREEDOM.**

GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE

01

Calvary was a legal transaction that purchased you from Satan's grip.

02

God's redeeming love transformed you from a slave to a son.

03

Redemption from sin comes only through the blood of Jesus.

04

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!
Ps. 107:2



Supporting Scriptures

Ex. 12:13

Eph. 1:7

Heb. 9:12

Lev. 17:11

Col. 1:14

I Pet. 1:18

The "I-Am-Free" Love

My guilt overwhelms me - it is a burden too heavy to bear. Ps. 38:4 NLT

Living with guilt is oppressive. It wears you down and wears you out. Christians are especially susceptible to guilt because they often violate God's Word intentionally. Can you relate to the agony of the psalmist?

For I admit my shameful deed - it haunts me day and night. Ps. 51:3 TLB

We are a guilt-ridden society with many options for freedom, yet guilt all the same. Is there a way out of this suffocating prison called guilt?

THE WAY OUT

Philosophy says, "Think your way out."

Indulgence says, "Drink your way out."

Politics says, "Spend your way out."

Science says, "Invent your way out."

Industry says, "Work your way out."

Communism says, "Strike your way out."

Militarism says, "Fight your way out."

Adultery says, "Kiss your way out."

Yoga says, "Meditate your way out."

Theology says, "Pray your way out."

Jesus says, "I am the Way (out)."

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. Eph. 1:7



God's redeeming love gives me FREEDOM.



SEARCH

Meet Onesimus
A runaway slave met
the Master.

PHM. 1:15

God's love changes everything.

Reflection _____



Chapter 4

GOD'S RESTORING LOVE

"That's a *lost cause!*" My dad heard those words frequently regarding the small, neglected shacks he restored. Neighbors ridiculed him. They saw the *shack*, but Daddy had a *vision* of a charming starter home. People might have said that you're a lost cause, too, but your Father has a *vision for you* that will leave them astonished.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Four scriptures in your Bible.

PSALM 23:4

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

PSALM 147:3

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

LOOKING AHEAD

- The pain of loss
- The hope of recovery
- Healing from sexual abuse

A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

GOD'S RESTORING LOVE

Each chapter in this workbook reveals a different glimpse of God's love for you. Let's review:

- Chapter One - God's _____ is unconditional.
- Chapter Two - God's _____ love is predictable.
- Chapter Three - God's _____ love is liberating.
- Chapter Four - God's _____ love brings recovery.

God's restoring love reaches into your past to retrieve, reverse or replace all areas of loss with hope. It brings wholeness into your life. It reverses the damage that sin brought and restores you back to the Father's original plan of abundant life. The Bible is filled with beautiful examples of God's restoring love. Stories of loss, injustice, despair, hopelessness - all restored and better than before.

Restore, defined:

- 1) To bring back to a former, original, or normal condition
- 2) To bring back to a state of health, soundness, or vigor
- 3) To give back; make return or restitution of anything taken away or lost

Biblical Restoration

Let's think about Ruth, a widowed foreigner whose new marriage began the ancestry of the Messiah, or Daniel, whose teenage covenant with God sustained him through a 75-year political career in a pagan country 1,000 miles from his beloved Jerusalem. Romans 15:4 says that God put these stories in the Bible to give you comfort and instruction. They instruct you to do what Ruth and Daniel did during their hopeless seasons - trust God.

Unlike the standard dictionary meaning of "restoration," the biblical definition of the word has more significant connotations that go above and beyond the typical everyday usage. Repeatedly throughout the Bible, God blesses people for their faith and hardships by making up for their losses and giving them more than they previously had before.

God's restoring love works backward through time, returning to you what you never had or restoring to you what you lost.

Word Pictures:



Broken arm set



1967 restored Camaro



Facelift Frances



**GOD'S GREAT
LOVE MEANS BETTER-
THAN-BEFORE.**

Respond to His love now.

Two Types Of Restoration

1. God's restoring love heals what is broken.

Restore, Gr. - katartizo

The Strong's concordance #2675 explains that this Greek word is a derivative of #739; to complete thoroughly, repair, or adjust. It is used in secular Greek for setting broken bones and in Matthew 4:21 for "mending nets."

Circle some things in your life that are broken:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| a. Your relationship with a family member | b Your ability to trust people |
| c. Broken through anxiety or addictions | d. Other _____ |

God can restore (katartizo, Gr. repair, complete thoroughly) these areas of brokenness if you come to Him in humility. Crystal was a TBI student who experienced this type of restoration. I marveled at how God erased and replaced years of addiction with an anointing to reach young people for Christ. As He promised, things turned around for her good, and she is a happy wife and mother today.

2. God's restoring love recovers what was stolen.

Restore, def Hbw, shub (shoob) Strongs #7725 - To retrieve or reverse, return, bring back

Circle some areas of your life where you have been robbed:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| a. Your childhood innocence | b. A meaningful marriage |
| c. Financially through a corrupt business deal | d. _____ |

God can restore (*shub, Hbw. retrieve, return*) what was stolen from you.

Sometimes, restoration has a literal fulfillment, such as a stolen car being located and returned to its owner. Other times, restoration releases a supernatural "replacement" that compensates for that which was lost. Somehow, God's restoring love works backward through time, returning to you what you never had or restoring to you what you lost.

Such is the frequent case of our TBI students who grew up in a home without a father. Although their earthly dad did not return, God put a spiritual dad in their lives, and their need for a male role model has been fulfilled. As a result, their confidence is restored, and the social dysfunctions are reversed.

God can restore better than before.

The Invaluable Role of Family

Psychologists have now confirmed what the Bible has taught for generations - the family should meet the basic needs of a human being. Your childhood years are designated to "store up" everything you'll need for a lifetime of physical and emotional wholeness. Those who receive these positive, repetitive experiences tend to have an inner wholeness that will carry them through life.

You might say, *"Hey! My family's a mess! Now what?"* Don't despair, dear one. God is described as the *Father of* _____ *and God of all* _____

II Cor. 1:3

It's interesting to note that when families are dysfunctional, the Holy Spirit will use the family of God to compensate. The authentic love and mentors that you longed for as a child can be found within the walls of a healthy church.

God sets the _____ in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity. Ps. 68:6

A healthy church committed to biblical teaching, and relational community is God's answer for all of life's pains and problems. A Christian friend is better than the best anti-depressant medication. So be sure that you are connected to a local body of believers who are growing in Christ's love and serving each other.

Dealing With Sexual Abuse

Statistics regarding the increase of sexual abuse are staggering. One in four women and one in six boys claim to have experienced a harmful sexual activity against their will. The psychological, emotional, and physical effects on a survivor can be devastating:

- Depression, Self-Harm, Eating disorders
- Flashbacks, Substance abuse, Sleep disorders
- PTSD, Dissociation, Sexually transmitted diseases
- Eating disorders, Panic attacks, Suicide



God's restoring love heals broken lives.

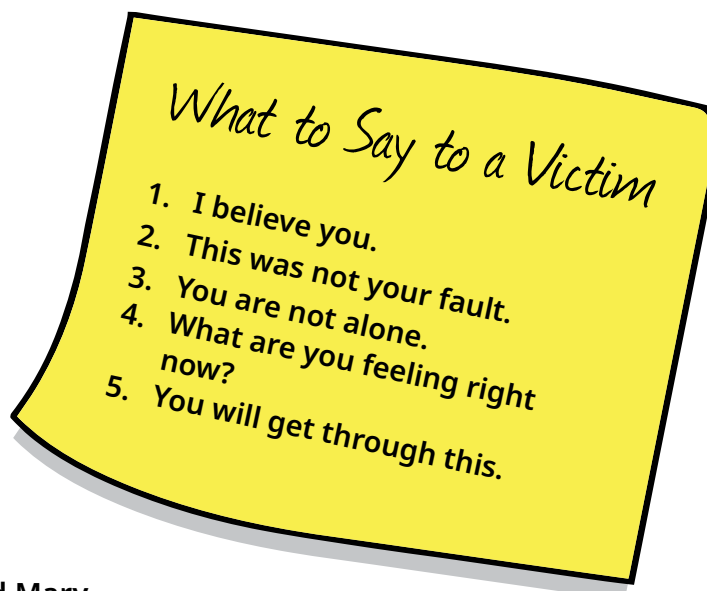
Where Was God When I Got Raped?

I've had many girls sit in my office and scream that gut wrenching question. My reply to each of them has explained a different perspective and provided hope for emotional healing. Where was God? He was reliving His Son's crucifixion and the suffering He endured so that you could be healed and become emotionally whole. Your Father God loves you so deeply that He created the solution before the injustice occurred. He provided for your healing before the heartbreak ever happened.

God's Promises For The Sexually Abused

Here is your personal plan for restoration! As you spend time meditating on these scriptures, His healing power will come. Get serious about this! Put them on your mirrors. Stare at them during your work. Say them out loud. The miracle of restoration is yours today.

- *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Ps. 147:3*
- *He restores my soul. Ps. 23:3*
- *For I will restore health unto you, and I will heal you of your wounds... Jer. 30:17*
- *I will restore the years that the locust has eaten ... Joel 2:25*



A Victim Named Mary

We are introduced to Mary Magdalene in Luke chapter eight. She had been used and abused. The implication is that she was a prostitute, but it was probable that she was first a victim of sexual abuse. Either way, she was a mess, but when she encountered Jesus, He cast out seven demons, and she was set free! Her mess became a message and, after Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to her first. When this victim met the Victor, complete restoration occurred. Her painful past was erased, and what she had lost was replaced. This type of miracle can be your story, too! God's restoring love is here for you today.

God's restoring love means "BETTER-THAN-BEFORE."

GOD'S RESTORING LOVE

01

God's restoring love reverses and recovers what was damaged by sin.

02

Restoration brings your life back to the Father's original purpose.

03

Jesus became broken so you could be whole.

04

God's promises of victory are available to every victim.



Supporting Scriptures

Ps. 23:4

Jer. 30:17

Rom. 15:13

Ps. 147:3

Joel 2:25

I Pet. 5:10

The "I-Am-Renewed" Love

With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself. Jer. 31:3 NLT

My dad had a knack for turning a lost cause into a treasure. Although he was a pilot by occupation, his spare time was spent restoring old houses in our neighborhood. I can still hear my uncle saying, "Raymond, you've got to be kidding...this old shack?" But while others saw a run-down house with an overgrown yard, he saw a quaint, starter home.

Daddy ripped out the acoustical tiles only to discover high ceilings. Sometimes when he tore up filthy carpet, beautiful wood floors were found. He spent his weekends replacing wiring and plumbing, painting, and pruning. He recruited my mom to sew kitchen curtains and prune the overgrown bushes. Throughout my teen years, he worked very, very hard on this "lost cause" hobby.

I didn't do one thing to help. I was too self-absorbed to realize that it was his love for me that motivated these exhausting projects. You see, these restored rental homes eventually paid for his three daughters' college tuition. They also provided finances for my mom over her twenty-plus years of widowhood. What a father I had.

What a Father you have!



God's restoring love makes me **BETTER THAN BEFORE.**

Reflection



SEARCH

Meet Ruth
From widow to wealth.
Foreigner to Covenant.

RUTH 1:16

God's love changes everything.

Chapter 5

GOD'S JOYFUL LOVE

The background of the upper half of the page is a dark blue gradient. In the upper right, a large, pale full moon is visible. In the center, three dark blue crosses of varying heights are silhouetted against the sky. They appear to be standing on a dark, rounded hill. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

You've *missed* your chance to win \$100,000 on NBC's *Name That Tune*, but there are some other songs that are even more valuable. That tv show might have won you cash, but the *songs of God* will bring you a fountain of joy. Naming His tunes will help you *win everything* you could want and more.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Five scriptures in your Bible.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.

ISAIAH 61:3

To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Lullabies of love
- Happiness vs. joy
- Dealing with depression

*God's Word is a miracle mirror
revealing your inner man.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

GOD'S JOYFUL LOVE

The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. Zeph. 3:17

LULLABIES OF LOVE

Did you know that God is singing over you? As a mother sings a lullaby to lull her child to sleep, God's soothing songs can help you through the darkest nights of your life. They will also release a joyful strength for your busiest of days. As we study Zephaniah 3:17, it is abundantly clear that His songs are both soothing lullabies and shouts of joy. What are the names of those songs? Here are some suggestions to smile about and prophetic lyrics of love from your Father.

- Lullaby #1 - Never Alone**
The Lord your God in your midst ... Zeph. 3:17
 I am with you, My dear child
 When times are fair or times are wild
 When fear slithers in a frightful tone
 You will never be alone
- Lullaby #2 - Rescued By Love**
"... the Mighty One will save ..." Zeph. 3:17
 Rescued by the Mighty One
 Safe in My arms of love
 Rescued by the Mighty One
 My joy comes from above
- Lullaby #3 - His Heavenly Hush**
God sings over you and in you] He will quiet you with His love Zeph. 3:17
 Hush, little one, don't you cry
 Even as you question, "Why?"
 I'm not wringing My hands as you might say,
 Hush, little one, you're gonna be okay.
- Lullaby #4 - Delightfully Mine**
"He will rejoice over you with gladness and singing ... " Zeph. 3:17
 *Rise up, my love, and come away!
 Drink in My joy throughout your day
 Whether in heaven or this stretch called
 "time" I'm your Beloved, and you are mine.

GOD'S BILLBOARD TOP 10**			
THIS WEEK	TITLE	LOVE SONG LISTED	LYRICS
1	Never Alone	Zephaniah	3:17
2	Rescued By Love	Zephaniah	3:17
3	Heavenly Hush	Zephaniah	3:17
4	Delightfully Mine	Zephaniah	3:17
5	You're Invited	Psalms	16:11
6	Boundless Joy	II Corinthians	7:4
7	Someday	Philippians	2:10
8	Guess Who?	I John	4:4
9	Come Home	I John	1:9
10	No Greater Love	Romans	8:39

* Song of Solomon 2:13-16

* These fictional Billboard hits are the author's attempt to describe songs of your adoring Father and the Lover Of Your Soul.

HAPPINESS VS. JOY

Receiving God's love will be easier when you understand the difference between happiness and joy. Joy doesn't come from what you feel, but from what you know, which explains why a missionary living in a hut can be more fulfilled than a millionaire living in a mansion.

Happiness is outward. Joy is inward.
Happiness is temporary. Joy is eternal.
Happiness depends on circumstances. Joy depends on a Connection.
Happiness demands a perfect life. Joy looks to a perfect God.

An excellent example of this can be found in Philippians. The "Book of Joy" is a strange title for words coming from Paul's miserable season of injustice. Yet, while chained to a Roman guard during his two-year house arrest, he shares some powerful insights about joy. If you would wholeheartedly embrace even one of them, you would tap into a gusher of unlimited joy.

Secrets of Joy

God is working in you
Think like Jesus thinks
Joy comes from serving
Temporal success is unfulfilling
Knowing Christ exceeds everything
Forget your past
Learn contentment
Jesus supplies extravagantly

Phillipians

1:6
2:5
2:7
3:4-7
3:8
3:13
4:11
4:19

FIVE TIPS FOR DEALING WITH DEPRESSION

The term depression has been tossed around like olives in a salad. It has become so common and accepted, even among Christians, that one needs to be reminded that suffering with depression is not God's plan. There are several preventive measures you can take to beat depression. I'm not making light of this debilitating tunnel of darkness, but I am bringing awareness for proactive prevention.

1. *Vent to the Lord first.* When an avalanche of feelings overwhelms you, you might want to call a friend or shut down, but don't allow yourself that option. Friends have empathy, but the Lord has answers. When you internalize wounded emotions, you allow a seething mix of anger, hostility, and resentment to develop. Learn to pour out your feelings first to the Lord.
2. *Destigmatize Sadness.* There is no shame in being sad. Emotions of sadness, sorrow, and hopelessness are part of the human journey, but try not to stay there too long. Research proves that exercise and enjoying nature can be beneficial when the blues arrive. *Blessed be ... the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. II Cor. 1:3*
3. *Depression is a mind issue.* Some scientists claim it is a chemical imbalance, while others say it's genetic or a disease. We do not deny that, but the Greater One now lives on the inside of you. He can teach you how to renew your mind and resist the toxic thoughts that make you susceptible to what the Bible calls "*a spirit of heaviness.*"



**GOD'S GREAT
LOVE MEANS JOY.**

We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion, and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. II Cor. 10:5 Msg

4. *Depression is sometimes an excuse for not being responsible.* I've known people who were so stressed and discouraged, it was easier to stay depressed than to make the necessary life changes to remedy it. Try to declutter your life by cleaning your home and learning to say "no" to extra activities.
5. *Depression is an emotional warning signal that something destructive is occurring in your life.* As you honestly face it and deal with it, you can often prevent a worse scenario. If not, seek professional assistance from a biblical counselor or mental health expert.

GOD'S MEDICINE - THE OIL OF JOY

The medical world has found great success in managing clinical depression. Some of my closest friends in ministry have been on antidepressants. We support all pathways inspired by God, but He has a medicine, too - the oil of joy!

*... the Lord has anointed me to give the **oil of joy** for mourning, the garment of **praise** for the spirit of heaviness. Is. 61:3*

God's best remedy for mourning and heaviness is the oil of joy and praise. Oil represents the Holy Spirit who can send comfort or break the oppression completely. Praise is first a discipline and then a delight. Sometimes the garment of praise is the heaviest thing you'll lift all day, but do it by faith. Try replacing every sad or negative thought with, "Lord, I praise You for giving me the oil of joy."

He anoints my head with oil. Ps. 23:5

In the ancient world, shepherds examined the heads of their sheep each evening. They would rub oil on any part of their head that got cut or bruised while grazing through stickers and brushy terrain. The oil had medicinal properties, and the scent reminded them of being cared for by the shepherd, thus reducing the fretfulness so common with sheep.

Take praise seriously! As you praise Jesus, your Good Shepherd, His healing oil of joy gets rubbed into your head, too, taking control of painful memories and racing thoughts, too. The result will be supernatural joy.



PRAYER:

Good Shepherd, thank you for anointing my head with Your healing oil. Show me thoughts that will make me vulnerable to depression.

An essential oil for living stress-free is the oil of joy.

SCIENCE CONFIRMS GOD'S WORD

Thoughts influence every decision, word, action, and physical reaction we make. However, you can reverse the effects of toxic thoughts. Your brain has the capacity to change and rewire and grow! Spiritually, this is renewing the mind. The Apostle Paul wrote the same thing to the church in Philippi.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are _____, whatever things are _____, whatever things are _____, whatever things are _____, whatever things are _____, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy— _____ on these things. Ph. 4:8 NKJV

Your brain is incredible; it can be reshaped and reformed. For example, the pathway needed to replace a toxic thought pattern can be changed within four days and create new ones within twenty-one days! Your brain literally creates a new circuit.

TRUE STORIES

Many of our TBI students arrive on antidepressants and gradually replace them with the joy of the Lord. Of course, we never encourage anyone to stop their medication without their physician's guidance, but as they committed themselves to praise, the healing oil of joy set them free from the oppressive spirit of heaviness. It happened for them, and it can happen for you!

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Neh. 8:10

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all
_____ and _____
in believing, that you may abound in hope by the
_____ of the Holy Spirit.
Rom. 15:13*

Happiness depends on outward circumstances, but joy comes from God.

GOD'S JOYFUL LOVE

01

Happiness depends on a perfect life.
Joy depends on a perfect God.

02

Paul wrote the "Book of Joy" while chained to a Roman guard for a crime he didn't commit.

03

Positive thoughts can change a toxic pattern in your brain within four days.

04

A proactive antidote for depression is the oil of joy and the garment of praise.



Supporting Scriptures

Neh. 8:10

Is. 61:3

II Cor. 10:5

Ps. 23:5

Zeph. 3:17

Ph. 4:8

The "I'm-Carefree" Love

Let joy be your continual feast. 1 Th. 5:16 TPT

How many diets have you been on? As of 2018, the weight loss market is worth an estimated \$70 billion. When everything is taken into account the average adult will try about 126 different diets in their lifetime. Let's feast on this scripture bite by bite:

Let joy be your continual feast. Make your life a prayer. And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Th. 5:16-18 TPT

Let's practice this "diet."

1. Let joy be your continual feast. *1 Th. 5:16*

What's your fav scripture you can feed on this week? _____

2. Make your life a prayer. *1 Th. 5:17* _____

_____ In Jesus Name, Amen.

3. In the midst of everything, be always giving thanks. *1 Th. 5:18*

Father, in spite of _____

I thank you for _____

4. For this (prayer and thanksgiving) is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Th. 5:18



God's joyful love makes me CAREFREE.



SEARCH

Meet Tychicus
God's joyful,
trustworthy mailman.

COL. 4:7

God's love changes everything.

*Father, thank you for teaching me that joy comes from
continual prayer and thanksgiving. 1 Th. 5:18 TPT*

Chapter 6

GOD'S CHASTENING LOVE

The background of the title section features a dark blue night sky with a large, pale full moon in the upper right. Below the moon, three dark blue crosses of varying heights are silhouetted against the sky. They are positioned on a dark blue, rounded hill that spans the width of the image. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

Parents have different *levels* of disciplining their kids. There's the glare, the slap on the wrist, the *spanking*, and, "You're-grounded-for-life." All of us knew we were in trouble when we heard our *middle* names. We didn't believe our parents when they said it was *for our good*, but they were right. God disciplines us, too, and for the same reason -- *for our good*.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Six scriptures in your Bible.

PROVERBS 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
nor detest His correction; for whom the Lord loves He
corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.

HEBREWS 12:11

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but
painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit
of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Divine discipline
- Training begins
- Dealing with rebellion

*Our attitude towards the Word determines the
place that God holds in our daily life.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

GOD'S CHASTENING LOVE

God's chastening love is His divine discipline; an instructional, corrective love for guidance and spiritual maturity. This type of love is available only to His children. This expression of love is an internal reprimand, always controlled and spoken in love. It is never harsh or demeaning.

"... for Whom the LORD loves, He corrects." Prv. 3:12

WORD PICTURES:

- A father spansks and hugs a disobedient three-year-old
- A stallion wears a bit in his mouth to be trained
- A florist inserts a stake in a pot to train the ivy to grow upward
- A coach who requires repetitive drills to assure success

Three Objectives

1. To adjust your perspective to align with His
2. Protection from pride, anger, danger
3. Training for reigning

What God's Chastening Is Not

- Sickness and disease
- Tragedy, crisis, calamity

Christians are often quick to blame God when tragedy comes. *"God wanted to teach us a lesson,"* or *"That's the only way He could get our attention,"* they explain. But that doesn't agree with God's Word, nor support the example of Jesus Christ. Psalm 119:68 says, *"You are good and do good."* Sickness is not good. Hurricanes are not good. Accidents are not good. While it is true that God can use bad events for something good, He is not the instigator, so don't question the goodness of God. Satan's strategy is for you to ponder, *"If God really loved me, why did this happen?"*

Jesus said, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly." Jn. 10:10

QUIT BLAMING GOD

God does not punish people with sickness.	True	False
God does not send tragedy, crisis, or calamity.	True	False
Jesus came to show us the Father.	True	False
Jesus never made anyone sick. He's the Healer.	True	False
God can use a bad event to point people to Him.	True	False

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him. Nahum 1:7



**GOD'S GREAT
LOVE MEANS
GREATNESS.**

Three Greek Words For Discipline

1. Chastening, *Gr. paideia* – to instruct
2. Rebuke, *Gr. elegcho* – to verbally reprove
3. Scourge, *Gr. mastigoo* – to flog (which translates to sensible physical discipline, not beating)

Appropriate Response - Rejoice and Repent

My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; for whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights. Prov. 3:11-12

How should we **not** react?

Do not _____

Do not _____

Who does God correct? _____

Rejoice that God loves you. Then, **repent** of the action or attitude He has exposed.

- Repent, defined – Literal meaning is to reject or shrink from; to feel sorry for an action, to regret and prove it by turning 180* and going the other direction.

Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I tell their faults and convict and convince and reprove and chasten [I discipline and instruct them]. So be enthusiastic and in earnest and burning with zeal and repent [changing your mind and attitude]. Rev. 3:19 AMPC



PRAYER:

*Heavenly Father, I welcome Your corrective love.
Train me in Your wonderful ways.*

Training For Reigning

The making of a champion requires daily, repetitive training. This do-it-again-until-you've-mastered-it type of training is the recipe for greatness. Which of these champions endure rigorous training?

____ Olympic gold medalists

____ Soldiers

____ Spelling Bee champions

____ Business leaders / Pastors

____ All of God's true children

Anyone can quit and complain when the training gets difficult or mundane.

Greatness is determined by the training you complete. Just as those champions are trained externally, God's champions are trained internally. So don't despise it, my friend. Instead, adjust your attitudes to His, and run your race well like a sprinter off the starting block.

What areas of your life are you currently being trained by your Father? (circle one)

- a. To turn worry into prayer
- b. Getting out of your comfort zone
- c. Controlling your tongue
- d. Thinking bigger
- d. Other _____

Chastening Is For Our Profit

Let's learn about the purpose of God's chastening love from Hebrews 12:5-11:

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord... vs. 5

Why would you despise God's chastening? _____

... nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; vs. 5

Why would a rebuke from the Lord be discouraging? _____

Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? vs. 9 NLT

_____ No! I'm God's spoiled brat _____ Yes! I'm being trained for greatness

For they (our earthly fathers) indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit ... vs. 10

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. vs. 11 (Read this in the Amplified version!)

How does God's corrective love profit you? _____

**See page 70 for personal examples of God's chastening love.*

God's love connects before it corrects.

God's Word Is Your Wake-Up Call

Most of God's divine discipline occurs while reading His Word and admitting that an attitude or action in your life needs to be adjusted. Read II Timothy 3:16 for more understanding.

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for _____ ,
for _____ , for _____ , for instruction in _____ ,
that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. II Tim. 3:16*

God's Inspired Word Profits You In Four Ways

From the Apostle Paul's Perspective:

- 1) Doctrine (*teaching, foundational truths*)
- 2) Reproof (*refuting error, internal red alert*)
- 3) Correction (*guidance for amendment, adjustments required*)
- 4) Instruction in righteousness (*training for long-term*)

From A Doctor's Perspective: (*pointing to the chart on the wall*)

- 1) Here's how it should be (*doctrine*)
- 2) Here's what's wrong (*reproof*)
- 3) Here's how to make it right (*correction*)
- 4) Here's the proactive plan to keep you strong (*instruction*)

From A Hiker's Perspective: (*pointing to a map*)

- 1) Here's where we're going (*doctrine*)
- 2) Here's where we got off the path (*reproof*)
- 3) Here's where we will back on track (*correction*)
- 4) Here's what we'll do to prevent getting lost again (*instruction*)

*When you read the Bible, the Bible reads you.
So let the Father's loving, corrective love train you
into greatness today.*

You're not in trouble. You're in training.

GOD'S CHASTENING LOVE

01

God's chastening love is to train you for greatness.

02

God never sends sickness or tragedy (adversity) to teach a lesson.

03

Divine discipline usually comes through the written Word of God.

04

God's chastening proves you are His child.



Supporting Scriptures

Prv. 3:11-12

Na. 1:7

Heb. 5:11

Job 23:10

II Tim. 3:16

Rev. 3:19 AMP

The "I'm-In-Training" Love

For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Ps. 51:3 NLT

Ten-year-old Casey was convinced he could fly like his superhero. Just before he leaped from the roof of his home, his dad insisted he climb down. "NO!" cried the young superhero defiantly, and he jumped. Thankfully, only a broken arm was the result, but had he trusted his father, he could have been eating ice cream as a reward for obedience.

We want to be our bosses, don't we? When the Lord begins to train you for greatness. Do you have temper tantrums like a spoiled child?

What is the Holy Spirit dealing with you about? _____

Rebellion is opposition to authority. It always begins in the heart and is the root of all sin.

Rebellion cost _____ his role in heaven.
Ezekiel 28:18

Rebellion cost _____ their partnership with God.
Genesis 3:23

Rebellion put _____ in the belly of a whale.
Jonah 1:17

Obedience won _____ the life of his son, land and legacy.
Genesis 22:16-18

Obedience caused _____ to help Paul and changed the world.
Acts 9:17

Obedience is easy once you accept that your Father knows best.



SEARCH

Meet John Mark
AWOL 20 years.
Finished strong.

ACTS 13:13, II TIM. 4:11

God's love changes everything.



God's chastening love gets me TRAINED.



Chapter 7

GOD'S LAVISHING LOVE

If you have a *rich* dad, life is gonna be great. He's gonna be behind the scenes helping you *win* the contests and contracts whether you deserve it or not. He's going to provide the *best* of everything and open doors of opportunity. *Unfair?* Yeah, but the good news is that you have a rich dad.

#AbbaFather #Favor



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Seven scriptures in your Bible.

I JOHN 3:1

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

DEUTERONOMY 28:2

And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God.

LOOKING AHEAD

- An ocean of love
- Favor ain't fair
- Dealing with shame

*Obedience to God's Word
always brings rewards.*

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

GOD'S LAVISHING LOVE

*See what love the Father has **lavished** on us in letting us be called God's children!
For that is what we are. 1Jn. 3:1 NIV*

God's lavishing love is a generous, extravagant, abundant, cleansing, healing, equipping, supplying, elaborate kind of love. It's an overwhelming showering of the goodness of God. It heals a shattered heart.

Lavish, defined

- To bestow something in generous or extravagant quantities
- To shower or pamper in a luxurious manner
- To cover something thickly or liberally
- Its root coincides with oil, ointment, and lavo, Gr, meaning to wash

The opposite of lavish is limited, skimpy, meager, frugal, scant

GOD'S LAVISHED LOVE IS ABUNDANT

God's love is unlimited. You must never worry that He will run out of love. God has power, but He *is* love. Can you imagine floating in an ocean of love? Consider the sport of surfing where waves delightfully overtake you. God's love is like those waves crashing over you with healing scriptures, unusual favor, and supernatural surprises. Waves never stop. They keep coming and coming.

The great theologian and "Prince of Preachers," Charles Spurgeon, exhorts us to "*behold it, wonder at it, and never cease to admire it.*" Truly extravagant love is "excessive and exceeding due boundaries." It is "wild" in that it is lavishly given, and therefore it's not within ordinary limits of reasonable affection.

*And all these blessings shall come upon you and _____ you
because you obey the voice of the Lord your God. Deut. 28:2*

Every day's your birthday!

Birthdays are fantastic because the entire day is focused on how much you are loved. In many homes, a birthday begins with your favorite breakfast and a showering of gifts. Then, a grand celebration continues throughout the day. God's lavishing love makes life seem like every day is your birthday.

God is holy and to be revered, but He is also your Daddy-God. This personal and intimate reference to God, Abba Father, is found in Romans 8:15. The Message version says, "What's next, Papa?" What an adventurous tone of expectation. That's a good picture of His birthday love, days filled with winks from heaven and uniquely personal expressions of His love for you.

*Every _____ and perfect _____ comes from the Father.
Jms. 1:17*



**GOD'S GREAT LOVE
MEANS FAVOR.**

He's the giver of good gifts throughout the entirety of our lives. These Bible translations (HCSG, ISV, NASB, NET, AM, WNT) use the extravagant word 'lavish' in several scriptures:

II Pet. 1:2 - As you grow in God, His grace and peace will be lavished upon you.

Jude 1:2 - May mercy, peace, and love be lavished on you!

Eph. 1:8 - wisdom; Where do you need wisdom today? _____

Eph. 1:8 - understanding; What do you need to understand more? _____

Say this out loud: **I am highly favored, greatly blessed, deeply loved.**

GOD'S LAVISHING LOVE COVERS YOU

Three different word pictures describe God's "covering" love:

1. A topical cream

This type of love is not a thin, see-through filmy kind. It is a thick, unyielding love that covers your emotional wounds like a topical medication. Perhaps, as a kid, you stumbled into poison ivy, and the intense itching woke you up in the night. Your mom opened a tube of cortisone cream and covered every affected area with a thick coat of medicine. The burning and itching were relieved within sixty seconds. In the same way your mom covered each affected area with that anti-itch medicine, God's love can cover every part of your shattered heart and wounded emotions, sometimes through scriptures, relationships, or favor.

2. A robe of favor

God's favor is an invisible force that causes people to notice, applaud and promote you. The purpose of favor is to give you influence for God's purposes. It is described in the Bible as a robe that identifies you or a shield that protects. In all instances, it identifies as God's favorite child.

Gen. 37:3 _____

Luke 2:52 _____

Luke 15:22 _____

3. A shield

With favor, You will surround him as with a _____ .
Ps. 5:12

GOD'S LAVISHING LOVE IS HEALING YOU

The love of God is all-inclusive goodness because God is good! There is a Native American word for love. It is "khenoronkhwa." It also means "medicine" in Mohawk. Your Father called you into a LOVE relationship with Him. Along with that relationship come the "lavishing" of all things good for you. You can be assured that you are His child and God is your Father. Nothing will be withheld from you. You understand that "love" and "medicine" go together because the right medicine is always good and brings healing and wholeness.

DELIVERED FROM SHAME

Shame is the intensely painful feeling that you are flawed, not good enough, and therefore unworthy of love. The underlying belief of "There's something wrong with me," of "I'm not enough" kicks you down those imaginary basement stairs resulting in a life of hiding your flaws. I call this the Fig-Leaf Syndrome because Adam and Eve used fig leaves to hide their shame of nakedness.

For shame to exist, you need secrecy, silence, and the perception or the reality of judgment. The judgment might be the repetitive personal proof that you're bad or "if others knew my secret, they would kick me out of their group." Here are four ways to escape from the shame spiral:

1. **Recognize shame's spiral:** When shame begins to surface, most people experience some physical symptoms similar to panic. You might also feel small, flawed, flushed cheeks, tunnel vision, and inability to make eye contact.
2. **Share your secret:** Ask your Father God who should hear about your secret first. Be careful not to share more than you're emotionally prepared for. The minute the secret is out, freedom from the trap of shame has begun.
3. **Self-compassion:** Begin an exercise of telling yourself what you would tell a loved one with the same secret. "You're going to make it," "Don't believe those lies you hear in your head."
4. **Expect God's lavishing love:** As you learn to say what God says about you, your inner perceptions about yourself will change. You'll begin to believe what you are saying. "I am highly favored, greatly blessed, deeply loved." The Holy Spirit will give you His "birthday-gift-of-the-day" in the form of a scripture that comes to your mind, a friend's text, a surprise treat, etc.

Believing God's Word and receiving His lavishing "love gifts" will deliver you from the secrets of shame. Remember, you are highly favored, greatly blessed, deeply loved.

Shame grows in secrecy, so share your story with a trusted friend.

Case Study: The Prodigal Son

Although the narrative of this story has focused on the prodigal son, I prefer to title this story "The Forgiving Father." What a powerful picture of your Father's lavishing love!

Read Luke 15:11-32.

But when he was still a great way off,

- His father saw him ... *How long did he gaze out that window?*
- He had compassion and ran - *This is the only mention in the Bible of "God running."*
- He fell on his neck and kissed him - *It was a dirty, smelly neck, yet welcomed with a kiss*
- Bring out the best robe and put it on him - *No longer a slave. The position of son was restored.*
- Put a ring on his hand - *This signet ring gave the younger son authority to represent the family.*
- Put sandals on his feet. - *In ancient biblical times, slaves went barefoot so they wouldn't run away.*
- Bring the fatted calf here and kill it - *This is a true party animal, save for a special moment*
- They began to eat and be merry. - *The father rejoiced and celebrated.*

The prodigal's life was out-of-control, disillusioned, and filled with shame. Do you feel the same?

Like the prodigal son, your Father saw you turn your heart towards Him. His response towards you and all His children is the same. Instead of a scolding, He releases His lavishing love upon you.



The eldest son was angry, thinking that he would receive the father's best. Instead, he said, "I've worked for you all of my life." The philosophies of these two sons reveal a beautiful picture of law versus grace. We don't earn God's love by working for it. We are undeserving, yet God lavishes His love upon us.

But God demonstrates His _____ toward us, in that while we were still _____, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

Like waves of an ocean, God's love keeps coming and coming.

GOD'S LAVISHING LOVE

01

God's lavishing love is the overwhelming showering of His goodness.

02

God's lavishing love is generous, unlimited, extravagant, and unending.

03

God's lavishing love makes you feel like God's favorite child.

04

God's lavishing love can set you free from the secrecy of shame.



Supporting Scriptures

Dt. 28:2

Lk. 12:32

Jms. 1:17

Ps. 145:8

Lk. 15:11-32

I Jn. 3:1

The "I-Am-Special" Love

If every day was your birthday ...

- You would eat ice cream for breakfast
- You would open gifts all day.
- You would always be the favored child.

This sounds awesome, but, as you grew older, you would either become spoiled by the daily gifts or humbly indebted to one who gave you life. God's favor works that, too.

Favor is an invisible gift from God that causes people to notice, applaud and promote your influence. Enjoying God's favor doesn't mean that He loves you more. It means that He blesses you more. And why would He do that? Because you've recognized that you owe your life to Jesus and *you are busy with His business.*

How is favor like a shield? _____

Ps. 5:12

How is favor like an elevator? _____

Ps. 75:6-7

Confession of Faith for God's favorite kids:

- I am highly favored.
- I am greatly blessed.
- I am deeply loved.

Believe big! Expect good things! Happy Birthday, favored one! Use those gifts for Jesus!



God's lavishing love makes me SPECIAL.



SEARCH

Meet John
Jesus' favorite -
according to him.

JN. 20:2

God's love changes everything.



Chapter 8

GOD'S COMPELLING LOVE

While on a safari, two British *aristocrats* found a man dying of thirst in the desert. Although they had six *water* bottles to share, they had no crystal goblet to use, and the man *died*. Please, friend, learn this lesson well. Thirsty people don't care about the vessel.

They just want the water.



YOUR WORD IS TRUTH JN. 17:17

Highlight these Chapter Eight scriptures in your Bible.

II CORINTHIANS 5:14

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died.

MATTHEW 9:37

Then He said to His disciples, *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few."*

LOOKING AHEAD

- What controls you?
- A giver or taker?
- Self-centeredness

Put the Word in you when you don't need it, and it will be there for you when you do need it.

Reading scripture aloud enhances comprehension.

GOD'S COMPELLING LOVE

For the love of Christ compels (controls, urges, impels) me. II Cor. 5:14 Amp.

God's compelling love is an intense, passionate, all-consuming impartation of the heart of God towards a person, place, or cause. It releases purpose. It's often described as compassion.

Word Picture: Two interlocking magnets in two different locations

You've been asking God to use you, right? This chapter will interrogate your priorities and radically rearrange your routines. It will cause you to be stretched and inconvenienced, but it will introduce you to the adventure of being controlled by the love of God to help others.

What controls you?

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| _____ Physical appetites (<i>food, water, sex, sleep</i>) | _____ Your calendar |
| _____ Need for acceptance | _____ Your social media |
| _____ Fear and worry | _____ Financial demands |

NEWS FLASH! IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU!

As long as you remain self-absorbed, you will never be able to live a life consumed by the compelling love of God. Why? Because it's not about you.

Your needs. Your wants. Your schedule. Your image. You. You. You.

You might be genuinely born again and live in heaven someday, but you've lowered yourself to self-centered living. Just the thought of considering someone else first completely tilts you!

Are You A Giver Or A Taker?

God wants you to live from the inside out. To begin, you'll need to become Christ-In-You conscious. Even as you pursue your daily responsibilities, you can allow God's consuming, compelling love to guide you. Train yourself to think about other people.

When you walk into your school cafeteria, do you:

- a) Look for your best friend
- b) Sit with someone eating alone

When you look at Instagram, do you:

- a) Have a few good laughs
- b) Check on a friend who hasn't posted lately

When you attend church, do you say:

- a) "Lord, bless me today."
- b) "Lord, use me to share Your love with someone today."

The emptiest people on this planet are those who are full of themselves. God's compassion leads us out of self-centered living into purpose.

God's compassion leads us out of self-centered living into purpose.

God's Compelling Love Is A Person

Jesus came to earth to show us the Father's love. We see an example of compelling love through the compassion of Jesus Christ. His love was not based on perfection or performance. He loved both the godly and ungodly. Notice these encounters that Jesus had with six different people:

Mark 5:1-20	Compassion on demoniac of Gadera
Mark 1:41	Compassion on the leper
Luke 7:47	Compassion on the adulterous woman
Luke 23:34	Compassion on people who crucified Him
John 21:17	Compassion of Peter who had denied Him
Acts 9:15	Compassion on Paul who had murdered Christians

Compassion is the Father's compelling love that pulls you out of your comfort zone to help broken people. Compelling love is fueled by compassion. It comes from the heart of Jesus Himself.

Six Facts About Compassion

Let's look at Jesus' example in this scripture and learn six things about compassion.

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits to cast them out and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Mat. 9:37- Mat. 10:1

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 01 Compassion comes from Jesus. | 04 Compassion prays |
| 02 Compassion sees. | 05 Compassion calls. |
| 03 Compassion moves. | 06 Compassion gives. |

Compassion Can Be Cultivated

The root of compassion is love, which is the fruit (or the result of) the Holy Spirit. Fruit grows gradually and must be watered. So every time you put others first, the Holy Spirit waters His love in you and it grows... choice by choice. Here's one way I have cultivated compassion.

Before delivering a sermon, I have made it a common practice to take a few seconds to stare into the eyes of God's beautiful people. As I scan the room, inevitably, I get drawn to one person, so I stop. While gazing into their eyes, an overwhelming compassion bubbles up within me, and I give them a scripture or prophetic word. Then, I move on with the Word and feed the people. Marvelous!

Don't wait to be perfect to share the love of Jesus. Just start.

One Sunday morning, I was watching people pray at the altar during church. A white-headed woman with a cute red tam caught my eye. I didn't know her, but compassion began to bubble up within me on her behalf, so I knew that God was up to something good. Our eyes caught, and I could hardly stay in my chair because I wanted to jump off of that stage to hug her. After church, God connected us for a unique kingdom purpose that needs to remain private, but oh! Oh! Oh! Learn to follow love and yield to compassion.

Compassion is defined as “Your hurt in my heart.” It is a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by adversity and accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering. Sometimes, it's just an overwhelming love, but it always finds an action plan. That's the distinction between sympathy and compassion. Sympathy feels sorry for someone, but walks away. Compassion renders aid.

The Good Samaritan

Read Luke 10:29-37 and compare the stark contrast between a religious leader controlled by religious rules and a despised Samaritan moved by compassion.

The Levite

- The Levite saw wounded man and crossed the street
- Religious rules made him rigid
- Didn't want to get involved
- Didn't want to get dirty/defiled
- Didn't want to get robbed

The Samaritan

- The Samaritan saw the wounded man and had compassion
- Compassion changed his priorities
- Compassion changed his schedule
- Compassion shared his transportation (donkey)
- Compassion cost him some food, medical supplies, and a hotel bill.

Love's arms are never empty.

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?” Romans 15:1 Msg



What Consumed Paul?

As we study the Apostle's life, we can't help but wonder what compelled him to such evangelistic extremes and fueled him through his tortures and trials. Before he met Jesus, he had such an impressive life of prestige; educated in the most respected academic institutions earning the equivalent today of three doctoral degrees. He could have lived a comfortable life teaching God's Old Testament Law to inquisitive young, adoring students. But then he met Jesus! (Acts 9:3-6)

A PUNCHY POEM WITH A POTENT POINT ABOUT A POWERFUL MAN NAMED PAUL

II Corinthians 4:7-18

What did Paul possess? _____
_____ *II Cor. 4:7*

What put him to the test? _____
_____ *II Cor. 4:8*

And what did he confess? _____
_____ *II Cor. 4:13*

What was his constant pest? _____
_____ *II Cor. 4:17*

Why didn't Paul digress? _____
_____ *II Cor. 4:18a*

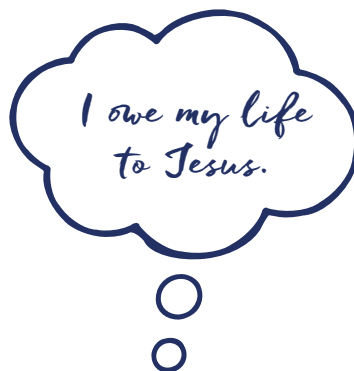
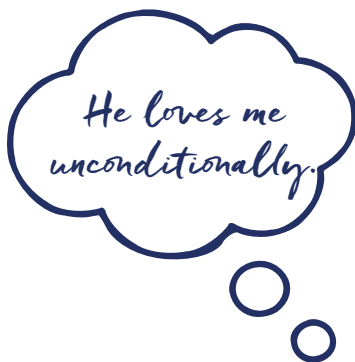
From his thirty-year heavenly quest? _____
_____ *II Cor. 4:18b*

The secret of his great success? _____
_____ *II Cor. 4:18c*

Paul's Source Of Fuel

For the love of Christ constrains me... II Cor. 5:14 KJV

For the love of Christ controls and urges and impels us... II Cor. 5:14 Amp



Paul was consumed, controlled, constrained, compelled by Christ's love for Him and for people. His life was radically changed, and yours will be, too.



**GOD'S GREAT
LOVE MEANS
OVERFLOW.**

GOD'S COMPELLING LOVE

01

God's compelling love is His heart in us towards a person, place, or cause.

02

Compassion is different from sympathy because it responds in action.

03

Our daily purpose is to be controlled by the love of God.

04

You have what broken people need - the compassion of Jesus Christ.



Supporting Scriptures

II Cor. 5:14

Mat. 10:8

Eph. 3:17

Mat. 9:37

Rom. 1:11

Eph. 3:18

The "I-Am-Overflowing" Love

Do you want to know the easiest way to discover God's will? If you will develop compassion and share it with lonely people, you will experience a lifetime of purpose and joy. Many people you interact with every day are lonely. They are sad because their need for rewarding social contact and relationships has not been met. Will you let God use you to help a lonely person today?

Seven Days To Develop Compassion

Sunday

Who do you know is dealing with loss? (job, divorce, death, etc.) _____

Monday

How many names are in your contacts? _____

Text one daily with an encouraging word.

Tuesday

What relative always causes family drama? _____

Pray for them now.

Wednesday

Whose words or actions really hurt you this week? _____

Pray for them now.

Thursday

Stare into people's eyes. Ask the Lord, "Let me see people the way You see people."

Friday

Get out of your comfort zone and say, "Have a great day!" (store clerk, elevator, church pew person)

Saturday

Watch the news. What nation or people group is dealing with a crisis today? _____



God's compelling love makes me OVERFLOW.



SEARCH

Meet Barnabus
Generous businessman
& networker

AC. 4:37, AC. 9:27

God's love changes everything.

ADDENDUM

ANSWER KEY

CHAPTER	EXERCISE	ANSWERS
Chapter 1	Your Paternal DNA Test Results!	born of God
	What Manner Of Love Is This?	• true
	Ten Descriptions Of Your Father's Love	• is • propitiation • children of God • were still sinners • lay down one's life • death
Chapter 2	One Verse, Three Translations	• rich in mercy • great • wonderful
	Steadfast Love and Emotional Healing	• griefs • sorrows
Chapter 3	Jesus Was Our Lutroo	• His own blood
	Redemption Alert!	• slave • son
	Redemption Releases You From Sin's Power	• say
Chapter 4	God's Restoring Love	• Father love • steadfast
	The Invaluable Role of Family	• mercies • comfort
Chapter 5	Lullabies Of Love	• fears • joy • peace
	Science Confirms God's Word	• true • noble • just • pure
Chapter 6	Appropriate Response	• despise the chastening • detest His correction
Chapter 7	God's Lavished Love Is Abundant	• overtake
	Every day's your birthday!	• good
	God's Lavishing Love Covers You	• Joseph • Jesus
	Case Study: The Prodigal Son	• own love
Chapter 8	A Punchy Poem...	• treasure • adversity • I believe • light afflictions

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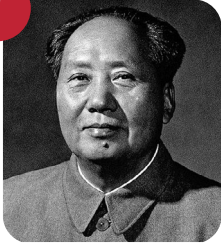
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EVIL LEADERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY



Mao Tse Tung

1893-1976
Killed 35 million people



Joseph Stalin

1878-1953
Killed 20 million people



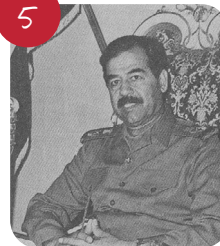
Adolf Hitler

1889-1945
Killed 11 million people



Kim Il Sung

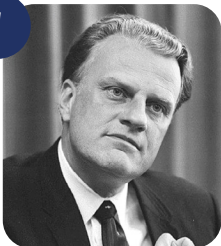
1912-1994
Killed 3 million people



Saddam Hussein

1937-2006
Killed 2 million people

FAMOUS PREACHERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY



Billy Graham

1918-2018
Preached the gospel to
215 million people



Smith Wigglesworth

1859-1947
"Apostle of faith" who pioneered
Pentecostal revival



John G. Lake

1870-1935
"Apostle to Africa" with anointed
miracle ministry



T.L. Osborn

1923-2013
World missionary evangelist who preached
to millions of unreached people



Oral Roberts

1918-2009
Evangelist who pioneered television ministry
and private, Christian university

An amazing truth... God loves these 10 leaders just the same.

LOVE THOUGHTS FROM YOUR FATHER

Dear _____ ,

You may not know Me, but I know everything about you...
Psalm 139:1

I am familiar with all your ways...*Psalm 139:3*

You were made in My image...*Genesis 1:27*

You are My offspring...*Acts 17:28*

I knew you even before you were conceived...*Jeremiah 1:4-5*

I chose you when I planned creation...*Ephesians 1:11-12*

You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in My book...*Psalm 139:15-16*

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live...*Acts 17:26*

I have been misrepresented by those who don't know Me...*John 8:41-44*

I am not distant and angry but am the complete expression of love...*1 John 4:16*

I offer you more than your earthly father ever could...
Matthew 7:11

Every good gift that you receive comes from My hand...*James 1:17*

For I am your Provider and I meet all your needs...*Matthew 6:31-33*

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope...*Jeremiah 29:11*

Because I love you with an everlasting love...*Jeremiah 31:3*

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore...*Psalm 193:17-18*

I will never stop doing good to you...*Jeremiah 32:40*

For you are My treasured possession....*Exodus 19:5*

Delight in Me and I will give you the desires of your heart...*Psalm 37:4*

For it is I who gave you those desires...*Philippians 2:13*

I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine...*Ephesians 3:20*

I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles...*2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes and will take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth.*Revelation 21:3-4*

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my Son, Jesus...*John 17:23*

He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you...*Romans 8:31*

And to tell you that I am not counting your sins...*2 Corinthians 5:18-19*

Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled...
2 Corinthians 5:18-19

His death was the ultimate expression of My love for you...*1 John 4:10*

I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love...
Romans 8:31-32

If you receive the gift of my Son Jesus, you receive Me...
John 2:23

And nothing will ever separate you from My love again...*Romans 8:38-39*

For I am the perfect Father...
Matthew 5:48

*I love you,
your Father, God*

P.S. As you meditate daily on these love thoughts from Me, your pain and insecurities will be replaced with My great love for you.

THE SAILBOAT

An Example Of God's Redeeming Love

Jacob worked side by side with his father in the workshop. His loving dad taught his young son how to build a tiny boat. The small fellow worked hard at his task. He listened carefully how to cut pieces of wood and how to use the right nails. His father put his large hand over his son's hand as they gently hammered together. The boy thought the blue paint was just the finishing touch and could hardly wait for it to dry, so he could sail his masterpiece.

Several days later, the young master builder sat next to the large lake on their farm. He clapped with glee as the boat floated. As the blue treasure bobbed back to him time and again, Jacob pushed it out in the water just a little farther. One big push, however, sent the boat way out of the boy's reach, and he sadly watched it sail out of sight.

Dejected, Jacob went into the house. The parents prodded the story out of their silent, sad, little son. The father, trying to ease the brokenhearted boy's pain, promised to take him to a nearby town to buy an even better boat.

As the two walked the street the next day, Jacob spotted something in the window of the small pawnshop. He quickly took his father by the hand and went in. In excited childish fashion, he exclaimed to the owner of the shop, *"That's my boat in the window! The blue one in the window is my boat! I made it!"* The gruff proprietor was not moved. *"Listen, that boat was found on the lake and brought in this morning. If you want it, you gotta pay for it."* Wide-eyed, the boy queried, *"Pay for my boat? The one I made? But it's mine!"* Irritated, the owner answered, *"As far as I know, it was a lost boat that someone found and brought in. If you want it, you gotta pay for it."*

Jacob reluctantly gave all the money he had to the man, and the store owner gave the small blue boat to the little boy. As Jacob and his father left the pawnshop, he clutched his boat and said, *"You belong to me twice. Once 'cause I made you and twice 'cause I bought you back."*

That's a beautiful picture of God's redeeming love. When God made His creation, He was prepared to pay whatever price to buy us back. And He did. Paid in full.

PAID IN FULL



...the chastisement [needed to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him... Is. 53:5 AMPC

TRAINING FOR REIGNING

Personal Examples Of God's Chastening Love By Rachel Burchfield

God's chastening love is for our good so we can hear His voice and learn His ways. It is always kind, never harsh and occurs in our spirit man. Sometimes it's a gentle reprimand, an internal spanking, or a spiritual gut-punch. In my teen years and twenties, I didn't realize that I was being trained to reign over things that would have greatly hindered my marriage and our future ministry. Hopefully, you can learn from a few of my "training" moments.

1972 - A Dodged Arrest

When I was 15, I drew a line in the sand regarding living for Jesus and not going to wild parties, so I was thrilled when a Christian friend invited a group of us to go water skiing on his brother's boat. As I packed my swimming bag, I sensed a "check in my spirit," but I was young in the ways of God and didn't know what it was. For 24 hours, that "check in my spirit" got so loud that I had to call my friend and pull out. I was ridiculed by my Christian friends about taking this Jesus stuff too far, but they would pick me up for church the next day.

I sat on my bed kinda shaking my fist to the Lord, feeling that losing my worldly friends and now my Christian friends was just too much to ask of a popular girl. Oddly, no one called me that night to confirm my ride to church so I called a mutual friend. *"Didn't you hear what happened?"* she said. *"Dan's brother had stolen that boat. The Coast Guard showed up, everyone got arrested and spent the night at the police station!"* I hung up knowing that my obedience to Jesus had spared me an arrest and started laughing at how I was going to rub it in to my friends. Boy, did I ever!

1973 - "Tell Your Dad The Truth"

"I'm spending the night with Rhonda" was the truth, but it was only part of the truth. The other part of the story was that I drove across Houston, behind Daddy's back, to attend an Andre Crouch Christian concert. A few friends came with me, including my friend, Rhonda. Daddy, who was not born again, had forbidden me since I was a young driver, but we were Jesus freaks and Andre Crouch was a big deal.

On the very first song, I heard a Voice on the inside, *"Go home and tell your father that you've lied to him."* I couldn't enjoy the second song and, by the third song, I told my friends that we were leaving. Geesh! They were so mad at me. Daddy was very strict, so I was bracing up to get grounded for life, but my new commitment to follow Jesus was genuine, so I had to obey Him.

Daddy was asleep, but I woke him up. *"Daddy, I'm home."* My emotions flowed like a volcano, *"Daddy, I need to tell you I didn't go straight to Rhonda's, Iblah-blah-blah and now I follow Jesus, I just can't lie anymore. I'm so sorry."* He sat up in bed and simply said, "Okay." I never heard anything about that conversation again, but I was flooded with joy and I stepped into a realm with God few sixteen-year-olds could understand.

1979 - Publicly Humiliated

I was twenty-two years of age and on the ministry team for a large Women's Conference. I wanted to attend a private workshop for pastors, but this announcement was made. *"This workshop is exclusively for pastors or pastors' wives. Sensitive topics will be discussed that are not appropriate for the general public. Please leave at this time if you are not a pastor or a pastor's wife."* The Lord told me to leave, but I wanted to stay. I ignored His promptings three times, but there were approximately 400 people, so I felt that it was safe to stay incognito.

The guest speaker was a hero of mine who was forty years older. When she spotted me, she opened her session with the same announcement. I didn't budge. She mentioned, *"Rachel, will you stand and give a word of testimony,"* and I gladly bragged on Jesus. She directly asked me, *"I'm proud of your ministry to young people, Rachel. Have you become a pastor since we last talked a few months ago?"* "No mam," I replied. *"Well, dear one, this session is only for pastors, so I will need to ask you to slip out."* The room went silent. From the third row, I walked past 400 women who could feel my humiliation. Ouch. When I later complained to the Lord, His gentle response was, *"I'm training you to take My promptings seriously."*

1998 - Suck It Up!

My TBI classes have been a great source of personal joy. Working with young adults gives you the liberty to tell it like it is. One morning, I was explaining that God gives us the grace to endure any trial, so they need to quit whining, suck it up and stand on God's Word. Ugh. When I said, *"Suck it up!"* I felt like I had been gut-punched. The Holy Spirit explained to me later, *"That term may be fine for others, but you've been called to raise ladies who love their husbands and home. In the crudest form, it's a sexual term that doesn't belong in the classroom."*

2004 - "You'll Need To Shape Up"

It was a Sunday service at the OMNI Hotel while beginning Believers World Outreach Church. I had ignored some promptings to fast and pray. Things were bumpy that morning and He said, *"I've designed a special piece of armor exclusively for your part of this assignment, but you'll need to shape up in order to fit in it."* The words still sting in my heart if I'm not obedient to the prayer and fasting He was referring to.

2008 - Correcting My Husband

I was sitting on the stage at Believers World Outreach Church while my husband, Pastor Tommy, was telling a story during his Sunday sermon about buying me some strawberries. In a teasing tone, I said, *"It was blueberries."* Everyone chuckled, but the Holy Spirit wasn't laughing. He reprimanded me about correcting Tommy publicly. The Holy Spirit lovingly asked me, *"What does it matter if it were strawberries or blueberries? It didn't change the story in any way. Your role is to honor him; publicly and privately."*

2009 - "We Don't 'Do' Jealous"

My friend, Heather, was able to attend an exciting Black Gospel choir contest in Houston's Toyota Center. Two days later, I said, *"Heather, if I didn't love you so much, I would have been jealous."* We both laughed. Ten minutes later, the Holy Spirit pushed the rewind button in my head and I heard that statement again. His instructions were *"We don't 'do' jealous. It's not wrong what you said to Heather, but wouldn't a kinder comment be 'Heather, I am so happy that you were able to attend that exciting concert.'"* This was no big reprimand that required repentance. It was simply a heavenly slap on the wrist as He continues to instruct me in His wonderful ways.

2014 - "It's Only One Dollar!"

After a Discovery Camp service, a child approached me with her "late" offering. I thanked her and put the one dollar bill into my navy blue uniform shorts. Several times over the next few weeks, the Holy Spirit reminded me to turn that child's \$1 offering into the Business Office. I replied, *"Lord, we have 800 kids here, and it's only one dollar. I just spent \$130 of my personal money on a camp project. What's the big deal?"* His reply was gentle, but firm. *"That \$130 was your offering, but the \$1 was hers. She trusted you, and so do I."* I repented and made a quick two mile drive to BMI's business office to turn in the most important offering of DC2014.

39 States

TBI WORLD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

42 Countries

Dedicated to our Sons and Daughters in the Texas Bible Institute World Alumni Association
May God continue to use you to share the good news of Jesus Christ in your nation!

English

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

Spanish

Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo que ha dado a su hijo unigénito, que todo aquel que cree en él no debe pierda, mas tenga vida eterna. *Juan 3:16*

Arabic

لله الحمد والثناء

Amharic (Ethiopia)

እግዚአብሔር ዓለምን ወደታልና

Belize Creole

Yu si, Gaad lov di peepl dehn eena dis werl soh moch

Bengali (India)

কারণ জীবন জগৎকে এমন প্রমে করলিনে যে

Bulgarian

Защото Бог толкова възлюби света

Chamorro (Guam)

Sa taegüenao na jaguaeya si Yuus y tano

French

Car Dieu a tant aimé le monde

German

Denn also hat Gott die Welt geliebt

Haitian Creole

Paske, Bondye sitèlman renmen lèzòm

Hausa (Nigeria)

Gama Allah ya yi kamnar duniya

Hebrew

כי כה רבה תאהבה את העולם

Hindi (India)

परमेश्वर को जगत से इतना प्रेम था

Hungarian

Mert úgy szerette Isten e világot

Indonesian

Karena begitu besar kasih Allah akan dunia

Japanese

神は世を愛された

Jamaican Creole

Kaa, yu si, Gad lov di worl so moch

Korean

신이 세상을 너무 사랑했기 때문에

Mandarin Chinese

神愛世人

Maori (New Zealand)

Koia ano te aroha o te Atua ki te ao

Romanian

Fiindcă atât de mult a iubit Dumnezeu lumea

Russian

Ибо так возлюбил Бог мир

Setswana (Botswana)

Gonne Modimo o ratile lefatshe mo go kalo

Swahili

Kwa maana jinsi hii Mungu aliupenda ulimwengu

Tagalog (Philippines)

Sapagkat pag ibig ng Diyos sa sanlibutan

Tamil (Sri Lanka/India)

தவேன் இவ்வளவு உலகத்தில்
அன்புகூர்ந்தார்

Thai

เพราะว่าพระเจ้าทรงรักโลก

Ukrainian

Так бо Бог полюбив світ

Zulu

Ngokuba uNkulunkulu walithanda izwe kangaka

Foundations-For-Life Reference Tools

Stand-Alone Teachings, Topical Index, Illustrations

The Foundations-For-Life curriculum serves as a reference tool for TBI Alumni and Christian leaders of all ages. The reader has permission to use these materials in any way that develops a healthy lifestyle and Christian growth. For printed purposes, please cite your reference as *Burchfield, Rachel, Foundations-For-Life, 2022.*

Ten Workbooks, 80+ Pages Each

- **115 Stand-Alone Teachings**
- **200 Indexed Topics**
- **65 Supplemental Charts/Lists**
- **40 Illustrations for Sermons**
- **40 Personal Stories**
- **80 Devotionals**

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Illustrations

Topic	Title	Volume/Page	Summary
Choices	<i>Eight "Great Day" Choices</i>	1 / 1	Our lives and our eternity are based on our choices.
Brainwashed	<i>Brainwashed</i>	1 / 9	Evaluate info by God's Word, not popular consensus.
* Compromise	<i>How To Boil A Frog</i>	1 / 41	Compromise is so gradual that it often goes unnoticed.
* Contentment	<i>Acres of Diamonds</i>	1 / 57	After a man sold his farm to pursue wealth, diamonds were discovered.
Sin	<i>The Sin Virus</i>	2 / 8	A computer virus causes billions of dollars of damage.
Die To Self	<i>Mistake at the Morgue</i>	2 / 16	Funny. What it means to "die to self."
* Tongues	<i>Cannibals</i>	2 / 32	True story - Speaking in tongues saved a missionary's life.
Words of Jesus	<i>Words</i>	2 / 33	The words of Jesus are the most important words.
Who You Are In Christ	<i>The Mystery Man</i>	2 / 57	The peasant girl married a king, gaining his name and kingdom.
Bible Study	<i>Fools Gold</i>	3 / 8	Stats about California's 1849 Gold Rush (Psalm 19:11)
Trust God	<i>The Center Of Everything</i>	3 / 17	The central message of the Bible is the center verse.
Who You Are In Christ	<i>The Miracle Mirror</i>	3,4 / 40,16	God's Word is as a mirror reflecting your inner man.
Understand Your Bible	<i>Don't Forget The Oil</i>	3 / 49	The oil of the Holy Spirit makes your Bible come alive.
Habits	<i>The Secret To Success</i>	3 / 57	Our daily habits will make us or break us.
Identity in Christ	<i>Rewards of Identity</i>	4 / 1	Rewards belong to those whose identity is in Christ.
Guidance	<i>God's GPS</i>	4 / 9	God guides believers through their spirit man.
Faith's Confession	<i>Clean and Strong</i>	4 / 17	Confession of sin + confession of faith = clean + strong
Inward Witness	<i>Fully Charged</i>	4 / 25	Your inward man is like swallowing a cell phone.
Righteousness	<i>Daddy's Home</i>	4 / 33	Twins' different responses to their Daddy's arrival.
Prayer	<i>Never Pray This!</i>	4 / 41	Two types of prayer Christians should never pray.
* Overcomers	<i>The Neighborhood Tour</i>	4 / 49	Funny. Demons tippy-toe past the believer's house.
Hidden In Christ	<i>The Secret Room</i>	4 / 57	Those <i>In Christ</i> are storm-proof and satisfied.
God, Is That You?	<i>The Litmus Test</i>	5 / 17	Dip that "voice" into God's Word to test its source.
Deception	<i>Protection From Deception</i>	5 / 49	Deception changes your perception of God.
* Father's Love	<i>My Father Owns It All</i>	6 / 1	Two campers compare their fathers.
Restoration	<i>A Knack For A Shack</i>	6 / 32	God sees us through His eyes as a finished prize.
God Loves You	<i>God's Billboard Top Ten</i>	6 / 35	God sings over us, just as a lullaby or a lover's ode.
The Bible Is Inspired	<i>It's Alive!</i>	7 / 11	The "breath of God" makes your Bible come alive.
* Hungry for the Word	<i>Eat The Word</i>	7 / 46	An Ethiopian Emperor ate pages of his Bible and died.
Grace	<i>It's Who You Know</i>	7 / 62	Heaven is gained by Who you know, not works.
A Real Fool	<i>April Fools Day!</i>	7 / 63	A freshman proves his atheist professor is a true fool.
* Forgiveness	<i>Louis Zamperini Story</i>	8 / 40	WWII vet in Japanese war camp returns to forgive.
Emotions	<i>The Cracked Windshield</i>	8 / 49	The tiny ding left unfixed became a large crack.
Inner Man	<i>The Mall Of America</i>	9 / 1	Our spirit man is like a mall, everything we need.
Spirit Man	<i>The X-Rays Missed This</i>	9 / 9	X-rays show our natural man, but not our spirit man.
Confession of Faith	<i>How Faith Works</i>	9 / 13	A bicycle; confess with your mouth, believe in your heart.
Why Faith Fails	<i>A Wedding Disaster</i>	9 / 17	Mix your problem or promise with faith.
Salvation Benefits	<i>It's Paid For!</i>	9 / 41	Salvation is like an all-inclusive resort. Paid in full.
Faith Works!	<i>Faith Has No Plan B</i>	9 / 47	Our son's response to a marriage proposal setback.
God's Will	<i>A Fun and Faithful Father</i>	10 / 16	God's will unfolds with maturity.
Special Inheritance	<i>That's Billion With A "B"</i>	10 / 27	True story. Two brothers in poverty inherit billions.
* Rich in Christ	<i>The Wealthy Pauper</i>	10 / 32	A pauper didn't know she had inherited a fortune.
Describing God	<i>Artwork By Alyssa</i>	10 / 33	A kindergartener attempts to draw a picture of God.

* Rachel's favorites

GOD'S GREAT LOVE OVERVIEW

- I. The Father's Love**
 - A. Knowing God as a Father ends your search for significance
 - B. Your identity comes from God.
 - C. Each expression of the Father's love brings wholeness
 - D. *I Jn. 3:1, I Cor. 8:6, Ps. 147:3*
- II. God's Steadfast Love**
 - A. God's love is like the sunrise; predictable, dependable
 - B. God's love vs. Human love
 - C. Emotional trauma; effects, solutions
 - D. *Lam. 3:22, Dt. 7:9, Heb. 13:5*
- III. God's Redeeming Love**
 - A. Redemption means to purchase or buyback
 - B. Born a slave, born again a son
 - C. Redemption comes only through Jesus' blood
 - D. *Ex. 12:13, Eph. 1:7, I Pet. 1:18*
- IV. God's Restoring Love**
 - A. Restoration = Better than before
 - B. Jesus became broken so you can become whole.
 - C. God's promises of victory are available to every victim.
 - D. *Ps. 23:4, Jer. 30:17, Joel 2:25*
- V. God's Joyful Love**
 - A. Happiness vs. Joy
 - B. Paul's insights to joy during house arrest
 - C. Our thoughts literally change and rewire our brains.
 - D. *Is. 61:3, Zeph. 3:17, Ph. 4:8*
- VI. God's Chastening Love**
 - A. Objective is to train you; corrective
 - B. Always kind, Never harsh
 - C. God doesn't send sickness or tragedy
 - D. *Prv. 3:11-12, Job 23:10, Heb. 5:11*
- VII. God's Lavishing Love**
 - A. Showering of God's goodness
 - B. Favor gives you a supernatural influence
 - C. Shame grows in secrecy; share with a trusted friend
 - D. *Ps. 145:8, Jms 1:17, I Jn. 3:1*
- VIII. God's Compelling Love**
 - A. An all-consuming compassion
 - B. Compassion vs. sympathy = action
 - C. Jesus is our example of compassion
 - D. *II Cor. 5:14, Mat. 9:37, Eph. 3:17-18*

