

BE-LOVED

John 3:16 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.

The world as a whole does not understand the love God has for us. Most, even Christians don't see His involvement in their everyday lives. Many hold the view that God set everything in motion, and has left it up to them to handle; good or bad. But if we really understood God, we would see the reality of what it means for God to have loved us enough to send Jesus. God has revealed himself; His character, nature and will in the Person of Jesus Christ. God gave His only son as a ransom to save us, and with Him, has given us everything we could possibly need for an abundant life. God is love, and loves gives. We can come to God on the basis of this extravagant love for us, and intimately receive it in all its fullness.



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One of the greatest revelations I've ever received is that God wants only good for me. I believe this is foundational to understanding God's true nature, character and will for mankind; and for us personally.

It just downloaded in my heart one day:
God didn't want a particular situation I experienced to have happened the way it did. I had heard it preached that "God loves you" in the context of God's love for all people; but that just didn't ring a bell in my own life. I thought of God's interaction with us in an impersonal and uninvolved way. But sure, I knew He loved the world and forgave us. So I tried to reason it was true, but what did this "love" really have to do with me?

But when I "saw this" truth it became so personal I knew my Father was heartbroken for me, for all those involved and He understood how I felt. He cared. It wasn't what He wanted to have happened. Maybe you're in a situation, or have experienced one that brought loss, tragedy, or emptiness in an area of your life. I want to encourage you today to take the first steps toward experiencing God's love for you personally by choosing to believe this too.

God only desires good for His children.

Jeremiah 29:11 for I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

This might seem super basic to some, but I'd like to challenge you to examine your core belief; what you really believe in your heart. Are you fully convinced God's desires for you are always and only good?

Take this one step further:

Does it influence your attitude when you come up against negative situations?

James tells us God does not tempt (test) anyone. That God only gives good gifts. Therefore, if you are in something that is not good, or have experienced something that wasn't, it is not what God wanted or planned for you.

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Someone might say, "What does it matter if God wants good for us? It wasn't good, so how does that change anything?" If you don't have assurance, a conviction on a heart level of God's goodness toward you personally, you won't be able to receive His love and compassion. You might not blame God, but if you think God is the one who did it, allowed it, or even has no involvement at all, it will be almost impossible to open your heart to Him.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weakness and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning.

This verse lets us know that Jesus Himself was put to the test, tempted in every way that we have. He understands and relates to it. The next verse invites us to receive the mercy, compassion and all of God's grace in those situations.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

So the first step in allowing God to love you is to accept that He does. Meditate on the scriptures of the Bible that show you God's love. Spend time in the gospels and see how God demonstrated His love and nature to all those who came to Him.

The next step is to believe this love reaches out to you personally; understanding and empathizing with you; and with the ability to comfort you and to heal your heart.

Isaiah prophesied this of Jesus:

Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound

And in Luke 4:21, Jesus fulfilled this scripture in His earthly ministry.

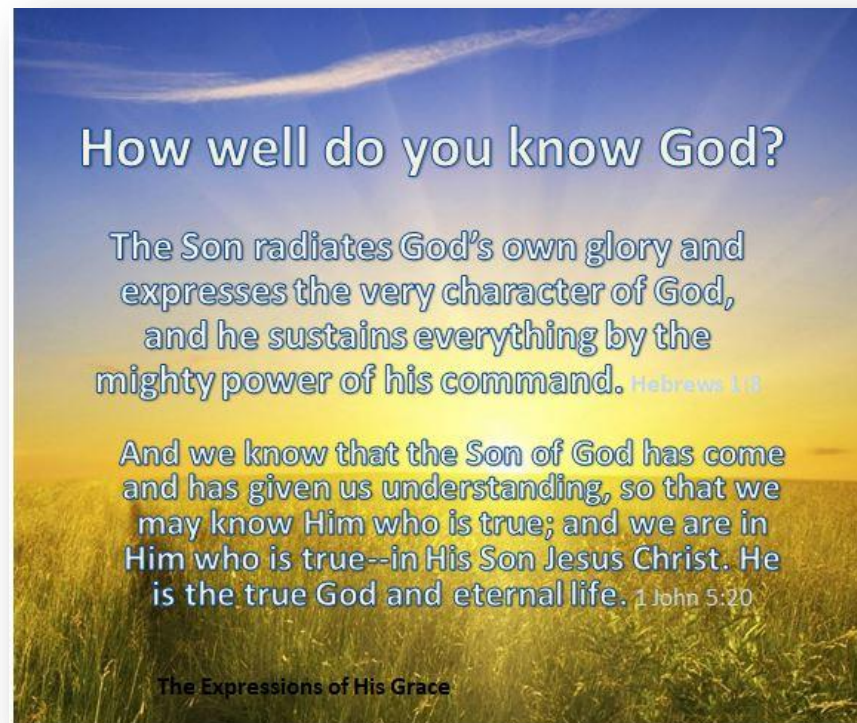
Luke 4:21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

So today, if you are suffering from a situation you have experienced, believe in the love of God for you enough to come to Him believing He wants to heal your heart, and for all things in your life to be good.

Thank Him for that. Praise Him for all that is good and for all that you do have. Come into agreement with His plans and purposes from the past, the present, and your future. God wants you blessed.

This will ultimately bring you to a place where you can begin to expect and experience all of His goodness, AND stand firmly against the lies and of the enemy in your life.

John 10:10 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.



Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us

WE MUST BELIEVE GOD'S LOVE MATTERS

1 John 4:8 "...for God is love"

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

The Love of God Gives

When you know the love of God, you will no longer accept the lies of religion that tell you God is allowing you to remain sick, poor, or despondent for His divine purposes. It is His love that sent Jesus to deliver you from all of it. It was finished 2000 years ago. We not only have been saved from His judgment, so that we will not go to hell; but when He placed our sin on Jesus, we were made the righteousness of God in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Our righteousness puts us in right standing with God, gives us personal access to the throne of grace, and has given us all things that pertain to life and godly living. He did this to deliver us out of darkness of this present age and into the kingdom of His beloved son, our Lord and Savior.

Sin and all the fruit of it (sickness, disease, fear, poverty, loss, and destruction) were not part of God's plan for humanity. Jesus came to deliver us from it; not to use it to bring God glory. It gives our Heavenly Father glory when we trust Him enough to walk in His provision, spirit, soul and body. Praise God!

If you're not seeing the supernatural favor and promises of God come to pass in your life, it is not God who hasn't given. You've got a lack of knowledge of the Word of God or wrong teaching about the true nature and character of God and the gospel of Salvation. Open your heart and find out what God's Word has promised and do not let the traditions of men rob you, making the Word of God of no effect in your life.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Romans 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace, in which we stand

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2 Peter 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love

Galatians 1:4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father

If you believe even one thing out of the Bible, why NOT believe every word God has spoken by His son? Jesus said, "Your word is truth" (John 17:17). I love what Jesus says here in the book of John:

(Jesus) "**If you had known Me, you would have known My Father** also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him...He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. John 14:7, 9-11)

One of Jesus's purposes of His earthly ministry was to make God known.

We're talking about believing God is who He says He is. We know *what* the Bible says about God. We've seen Jesus' demonstration of the fullness of God's nature and will for humanity. But many Christians don't let the bible get in the way of what they believe. Then they ask God for something and when they don't see it, they assume that He really isn't who He says He is. They wouldn't say it like that, but they doubt that they can read what the word of God says and believe it.

We like to reconcile our experiences that contradict the word of God by saying that if God wills it, it would automatically happen. We excuse our failure to receive by saying it's in God's hands. In essence, we make our own conditions for receiving and then attribute them to God. But it's time we take God at His Word.

Consider this scripture.

Ephesians 3:20 says, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think..." Praise God!

But the last part of that verse that says God is able to do exceedingly more than we could ask or think says, "according to the power that works in us". Not in God, but in us.

Ephesians 3:20"...according to the power that works in us."

God is who He says He is, but he won't violate our will. Therefore, we have a part to play in receiving what He has already promised in His Word.

He is our provider. He is our healer, he is our peace.

However, it is NOT up to God whether you receive His provision; spirit, soul or body. We have to ask ourselves. Do we doubt the validity of the Word of God? Are we judging Him who calls himself by the names of His nature, character and will to be faithful?

Romans 3:3-4 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar.

2 timothy 2:13 if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

Our perception of God, our beliefs about Him, doesn't change God, but it does affect our ability to receive from Him. If you haven't received what you've prayed for, maybe there's a better way to pray.

So Jesus answered and said to them, “**Have faith in God.** For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. (Mark 11:22-24)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)



For more on the balance of grace and faith:

Faith and Sovereignty

<https://theexpressionsofhisgrace.com/faith-and-sovereignty/>

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