



## God's Resources for Life and Healing

### Part 7A: Love

God's love is one of the most precious, undeserved resources we have to enrich our lives. God Himself *IS* love, and we are hidden with Christ in Him, which means *in His love* (Col. 3:3; 1 John 4:8, 16). His intent and desire for us is to live/abide/remain/rest in that love (Jude 21). Jesus expresses the same desire for us to abide in His love and says that doing this will make our joy full (John 15:9-11; Eph. 3:17-19). What an amazing resource for living the abundant life that He promised us (John 10:10b)!

Of course, we have our part to do in order to enter into this place of ultimate peace, rest, affirmation, security, and fulfillment. We must allow our hearts to harmonize with Him and His love, which we can only do if we keep ourselves from sin (John 15:10; 1 John 1:5-9) and love Him with all of our heart, mind, and soul (Mat. 22:37). Over and over again in Scripture our love for God is equated with keeping His commandments (John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:9-10; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 6). This will come naturally when we truly love Him.

To love Him, we must know Him, and to know Him, we must seek Him. He promises that if we seek Him with all of our heart, we will surely find Him (Deut. 4:29; 1 Chron. 28:9; Jer. 29:13; James 4:8). The legitimate question to ask then is "How diligently are we seeking Him?" If we examine our lives, how much of our time is spent seeking Him versus seeking our own good, what will make us happy, what will work out to our best advantage, and even what will provide for our needs, while all the time God promises that if we will seek Him first and His righteousness, *HE* will take care of all of these things for us (Mat. 7:33; Rom. 8:28)? How often are we like sheep trying to find our own way when He longs for us to take His hand, rest in His love, and allow Him to lead us to green pastures and still waters and all that we need? If we do that, I truly believe that we will be able to say with David, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want" (Ps. 23:1-2; Mat. 11:28-30; Phil. 4:19). When we feel that degree of rest, comfort, and assurance of His care, we are beginning to know what it is to live in His love.

In order to reach this point, we must come to know who God really is and what His nature is like. We must search the Scriptures to understand the revelation that He has given of Himself through them, allowing the Holy Spirit to be our Teacher and to lead us to truth. The beautiful thing is that as God sees the earnestness of our hearts to know Him, He promises to disclose Himself in deeper ways to us. He does not cast His pearls before swine but releases them to those who truly seek Him with all of their hearts and show their love towards Him through genuine obedience (John 14:21; 16:13-15; Mat. 7:6; 11:27).

If we desire to live in His love, spending a morning quiet time with Him is not enough. As important as that is, we must also develop the habit of focusing on heavenly things rather than earthly things throughout our day (Col. 3:1-2). When problems or concerning circumstances arise, we must train ourselves to bring God into the situation as quickly as possible, trusting fully in His desire and ability to care for the issue for us (Phil. 4:6-7). This will initially take a deliberate effort but with perseverance will develop into an established pattern that will allow us to feel His love and presence as a permanent backdrop to our lives, constantly washing us with the refreshment of His living water (Jer. 2:13; John 4:10). What a difference it will make in how we experience life moment by moment!

In order to do this successfully, we will also have to make a conscious effort to ignore the natural pulls of the flesh and allow our lives to be directed by our spirits (Gal. 5:16-17). Essentially Satan, who is directly tied to our flesh, and God, whose Spirit is united with our spirit, are battling for the focus and leadership of our lives. One will lead us to destruction and one will lead us to life and love and peace (John 14:23; Rom. 8:5-8; 14:17; 15:13; 1 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:22). The choice is ours.