

## New Covenant Principles: Lesson 6 – You Are Loved

The Bible states that the very nature of God is LOVE. This means that love is the motivation behind everything God thinks and does. Having already looked at the truth that God is good and only good, all the time, it follows that love is only good. This study looks at the importance of knowing you are loved by God and why this mindset is essential to your living successfully in the New Covenant – enjoying life and life abundantly (**John 10:10**).

Let's start with a quick discussion on the definition of the love of God. There are five Greek words that are translated into English as love.

**Agape** – selfless love; the God kind of love. The love that is totally selfless and will give up everything to help the one loved. This is the word normally used by Jesus and the most common word for love in the New Testament letters. For example **John 3:16** – *For God so loved (agape) the world.*

**Philio** – friendship love / brotherly love. The love between siblings and friends. **John 21:15-17**, twice Jesus asks Peter “do you love (agape) me” and Peter’s response is “Lord you know I love (phileo) you”. The third time Jesus asked “do you love (philio) me”. He came down to Peter’s level. It took time for Peter to transition from his efforts to love Jesus to resting in Jesus love for him. Resting in Jesus love produces love for Jesus.

**Theleo** – delight in, as in ‘love to go fishing’. **Mark 12:38** – “scribes which love (theleo) to go in long clothes”.

**Eros** – human emotional/sexual love. The physical and soulish love between human beings. (not in the Bible)

**Storge** – affection for things. A contextual example is “I love the taste of that apple”. (not in the Bible)

Jesus described the love of God as Agape. Whenever he talks about the love of His Father, He uses the word Agape. Where the verses in this study use the word **Love**, the original Greek word is **Agape**. Write out the following verse and insert ‘agape’ in parenthesis after each word ‘love’.

**John 17:23.** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does the above verse tell you about God’s love for you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**God is totally and selflessly attentive to you and wants the very best for you every moment of your life.** Now meditate on this reality and let the Holy Spirit give you revelation about what this truth means for you in terms of your well being, circumstances, family and friends. Write out what you hear: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now let’s look at some key passages on God’s love for you

**1 John 4:7-8.** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What characteristic shows a person is born of God? \_\_\_\_\_

**Verse 8** states 'God is love'. What Greek word for love do you think is used? \_\_\_\_\_

Meditate on what that means based on the definition of Agape given above. Write down what Holy Spirit says to you: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read **1 John 4:9**. How did God show His love for you? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God want you to get? \_\_\_\_\_

Write out **1 John 4:10**. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notice that the source of love is from God to us. Our love for Him is the response to His love for us, as shown by Jesus eradicating our sins. The fact is that no humans can of themselves love God with Agape love. Because we are born after Adam's seed, selfishness is the center of fallen man's nature. Therefore, man cannot fulfill the law (**Luke 10:27**) of himself. That's why our focus has to be on God's love for us. As we meditate on this and see how much God has done for us because of His love, our love for Him grows. **1 John 4:11** states that by 'receiving God's love for us, we will become people who love one another'.

Now write out **1 John 4:16-17**. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What qualified you to dwell in love? \_\_\_\_\_

Note the words "dwell" are both in the present tense – dwelling in God is a continuous, present state.

How is your love made perfect? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the benefit of your love being perfected? \_\_\_\_\_

The Greek word translated as judgment (KJV) is the word "krisis". Strong's defines this word as "(Subjectively or objectively, for or against); by extension a tribunal; by implication justice (specifically divine law): - accusation, condemnation, damnation, judgment". Notice the word says "boldness in the day (singular) of <accusation, condemnation> judgment". This means in the day that Satan or your own flesh brings accusation and condemnation against you (because you broke divine law), you have boldness to reject it because you believe and know how much God loves you and what Jesus has done to deliver you from the curse. This boldness to

reject everything of the curse comes from knowing you are loved and because of that love, you are “*as Jesus is*”. This last phrase is an incredible truth – “*as he is (present tense), so are we in this world*”. Meditate on this. What is Jesus like right now (in the present time)? Is He sick, confused, lacking, addicted, hurting, under the weather, poor, depressed, or so on? Absolutely not!!! Then you are not that either, because “*as He is, so are you*”.

Write out **1 John 4:19**. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does your love for God come from? \_\_\_\_\_

Now read **Ephesians 3:16-19**. What is your inner man strengthened with? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the measure of the strength God gives? \_\_\_\_\_

Christ in you causes you to be “\_\_\_\_\_” (what) in love?

In **verse 18** the word ‘comprehend’ (KJV) is better understood as ‘a working knowledge’ of just how big Jesus love is. This working knowledge stems from knowing how much Jesus did for you at the cross – delivering you from the curse. **Verse 19** is better translated as “and to be intimate with the love of Christ, which passes natural knowledge”. This intimacy comes from relationship; spending time with Jesus, talking to and listening to Him. The result is that you are “*filled with all the fullness of God*” (KJV). Meditate on this statement. Write down what the Holy Spirit says to you about what the fullness of God in you means for your daily life: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read **verse 20** and write down further revelations about the fullness of God and His power that is residing in you: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now let’s look at an example of why knowing you are loved by God is what will see you through “*the day of judgement*” Read **Mark 14:27-31**. What motivated Peter to make his boast of never forsaking Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Now read **Mark 14:66-72**. How long was it after Peter boasted in his love for Jesus that Peter denied he even knew Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_. What does this tell you about relying on your love for God to stay true to Him. \_\_\_\_\_

Now read **John 21:20**. Notice John refers to himself as “*the disciple whom Jesus loved*”. He is the only disciple who says this about himself. What love was John relying on? \_\_\_\_\_.

Now read **John 19:26**. Who was the only disciple who stayed faithful to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_. What honor did Jesus bestow on John because he relied on Jesus love for him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The simple truth of love is that when you know how much you are loved by God, live in and receive that love; there is nothing that the enemy or self can do to stop the fullness of God’s power in you. Focus on how much God loves you and your love for Him will grow in response.

Many Christians do not have a revelation of how much they are loved and this often results in them struggling with sin, addiction, bad habits and so on; i.e. living under the curse. Unfortunately, well meaning church teaching and discipleship programs have put people's focus on their own performance to love/obey/serve/please God. This is the opposite of what the Bible teaches and is the main reason many people do not live in the victory, power and freedom from sin that they are supposed to. The reality is that reliance on self performance actually prevents us from receiving the New Covenant blessings.

Since love is the greatest thing (**1 Corinthians 13:13**), it is the root from which everything else stems. For example, God's love is what motivates his blessings, grace and creativity. He envisions what he wants to create and/or how he wants to bless and then declares it to be so; and it is so. This activity is what we know as faith. **Galatians 5:6** states it as "*faith works by love*". Since man is created in the image of God, he has the same innate ability to operate by faith. Unfortunately, the fallen nature of man placed doubt in him, resulting in man having difficulty in using faith. In lesson 3 we looked at how New Covenant faith is a combination of Jesus faith and our faith. Let's briefly look at how love puts faith to work to bring the New Covenant benefits into your life.

Read **Hebrews 10:36-39**. In **verse 36** it says "after you have done the will of God"; here "have done" is in the Aorist tense, meaning it happened at a point in time. Read **John 6:29**. At what point in time did you do the will of God? \_\_\_\_\_ . **Verse 38** quotes "the just shall live by faith" and we saw in lesson 3 that this means the just live by the faith of Jesus. That's why **verse 39** says "*we are of them that believe to the saving of the soul*". The Greek word translated 'saving' is not 'soteria'; it is 'peripoiesis' which means acquisition or purchase. So your belief (faith) in Jesus purchased you from perdition (destruction, hell). Now write out Hebrews 11:1. \_\_\_\_\_

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The Greek word translated 'substance' is 'hupostasis' which means the 'under support' and is from two Greek words 'hupo' (under) and 'histemi' (support or standing in covenant). The substance is the covenant under you that supports your hope; where hope (elpis GK) means 'absolute confident expectation'. Since Jesus purchased your complete deliverance from the curse (soteria) and guaranteed it by covenant, our confident expectation (hope) is to see this deliverance manifest in our lives. This confident expectation, based on the blood covenant guarantee of God, is the essence of faith – knowing that God cannot break His covenant, so what you hope for, you already have. Faith simply asks for what has already been provided and then proceeds to give thanks and praise for having already received it. This simple behavior is what guarantees it will manifest in your life.

Now read **Hebrews 11:2-19**. In all the examples given, faith is identified as being the substance that looked to God and received the blessing that flows from God's love. There is absolutely no room for self effort in faith.

Now write out **Hebrews 11:6**. \_\_\_\_\_

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"Believing that He is"..... what? He is everything and 1 John 4:10 says at His core He is Love. You must believe in the totality of God's love and then be quick and constant (diligent) to search out and receive that love. Spend time daily with Jesus receiving greater revelations of His love for you. Your love for Him will grow and this will cause your faith to grow. The result is the reward of God – New Covenant power and blessing in your life.