



Three keys to Grow and stabilize Your Relationship with God

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I want to share with you **two to three** keys that will help you grow and stabilize in your relationship with God. Very simple and powerful, yet very ignored and misunderstood. These revelations are fundamental to your growth in the things of the Lord.

1. THE WORD

- a) 1 Peter 2:1-3 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word**, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.
- b) Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.
- c) Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:
- d) 2 Timothy 3:15-17 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.
 - i) Perfect = Fresh and Complete

- ii) James 1:4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
- e) 1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

2. THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF GOD

One of the greatest revelations we could ever receive is the revelation of God's unconditional love.

- o Knowing and believing that God's love toward you is unconditional will revolutionize your relationship with God.

Contrary to what some of us have heard in the past or are even hearing in the churches we go to is that God love is NOT proportional to our goodness.

#Some teach:

- a) When we do right God responds with a blessing but when we do wrong, we are punished and cursed. Nothing can be further from the truth!

#Best Day:

The truth is that even on our best day; neither can we measure up to earn the blessing nor the love of God.

#Sowing and Reaping:

- a) True, there is a principle of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:7-8), but it must be made clear that it is the Lord that gives seed to the Sower (2 Corinthians 9:10).

- b) We were so destitute that we could not even provide our own seed. It is the Lord that gives us the seed that we sow to reap.

#Key Text/Passage:

And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: **but Rebekah loved Jacob.**

—Genesis 25:27-28 (emphasis mine)

- a) Performance-based world

We live in a performance-based world.

- b) If you do well you get promoted, if you mess up you get fired.
- c) You did not get your job because of your employer's unconditional love for you. You had to earn it.
- d) If you work harder, you get a raise, or else you don't.
- e) We treat each other based on performance not unconditional love.

#Fallen world

That is how this fallen world operates.

#Same mindset transposed on God

We have taken this same mindset and transposed it on God and His kingdom. We think that this is the same way God relates to us and deals with us which is not true.

The kingdom of God operates quite differently from the way this world does.

#God's kingdom = Unconditional (unearned or Undeserved)

- a) For God and His kingdom, His love towards us is completely unconditional.
- b) We do not work to earn it or get it. It is all given to us by grace, not by works.
Ephesians 2:8-9
- c) For all a lifetime on this earth and all eternity, we could never perform good enough to earn the love and blessing of God.
- d) It doesn't come by performance.

#A lie from hell

It is a lie from hell that **God's love for us is tied to our performance.** The truth is that we all do not deserve what we get.

#Because He is love, not because you are lovely

- a) God loves us not because we are lovely but because He is love (1 John 4:8, 16).
- b) This OT mentality of blessing and cursing needs to go because, under the NT, God deals with us and loves us not because we are lovely but because of Jesus and His finished work on the Cross.
- c) It's all because He is love not because we are lovely.

#Lonely? Depressed?

- a) If you are lonely, depressed, discouraged, and defeated, you can use some of God's unconditional love.

b) A revelation of how much God loves you would completely revolutionize your life.

A. He first loved us

1 John 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:10,18-19 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. [19] We love him, because he first loved us.

a) We love God because He first loved us.

We did not initiate the love relationship we have with Jesus. He did. God took the very first step towards us even before we had anything good in us.

i) **It is impossible to love God first.**

ii) Without Him, we have no clue how love looks like.

iii) **True love is demonstrated by God to us.** He had to love us first for us to love Him back.

iv) If there is another motivation other than love, you will break. You will quit. It is just a matter of time.

Understanding the love of God will set you free to seek, love, serve, give, forgive, and so forth.

v) If you are struggling in any area of your life, the bottom line is you do not know or understand God's love for you.

A revelation of God's love for you will completely transform your life and your level of commitment to the Lord and serving.

B. He now loves us Much More

Romans 5:6-10 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

#How do you know Jesus loves you?

- a) How do you know Jesus loves you? He died for you. He took the bullet for you/us.

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

- i) Understanding this is the foundation to a greater, deeper revelation, and experience of God's love for us.
- ii) Even when we do not feel loved, we can rest on the truth that Jesus died for us demonstrating His love for us.

#While we were still a sinner, Jesus died for us.

- b) These verses have a powerful lesson we can learn about the love of God.

- i) We had done nothing good, nor had we lived a godly life for Him to love us. In other words, His love for us was entirely based on Him—not us. It was unconditional.
- ii) If God loved us so much to die for us while we were still sinners, He loves us much more now that we are now justified.

#He loves us much more now

- c) He doesn't love us less or more but much more now that we are His children. If He loved us unconditionally while still in the world, He loves even much more unconditionally now that we are His children.

Religion....."If you do not straighten up and get your act together, God won't bless you. He won't love you."

- d) Religion has taught us that we should come as we are and that God loves us unconditionally but as soon as we do and get saved, the next day they say, "If you do not straighten up and get your act together, God won't bless you. He won't love you."
 - i) What they are saying is that God's love and blessings for that person are based on their goodness and holiness.

#How holy do you have to be to receive from the Lord?.....

- e) How holy do you have to be to receive from God?

Who sets that percentage or the standard?

Brothers and sisters, it is a deception to think that you can deserve or earn a thing from God based on your holiness and goodness. At your best in all your actions, you still fail.

#Condemnation and performance based legalistic mindset

What the mindset of performance to be blessed does to a new believer is to send him or her into condemnation and a performance-based legalistic mindset which will defeat them because none of us can ever perform 100% to deserve or earn the blessing and love of God.

#If our actions were what was required...

- f) If our actions were what was required, then Jesus did not need to go to the cross and pay for our sins. We could have performed our way into a relationship with God. Of course, this thinking is ridiculous.
 - i) None of us qualified in our actions so God did everything for us independent of us and solely dependent on Jesus and His righteousness, not ours.
- g) I'm here to tell you that God's kind of love towards you is not dependent on how good you are, or you act but only on Jesus.

You can't act well enough to deserve, qualify for, or earn the love and blessing of God. Only Jesus was qualified, and we only tap into that love, favor, and blessing because of our faith in Jesus.

- i) If God loves you proportional to our goodness, then the OT law is still in effect. Times have changed because of Jesus. Hallelujah. Now we can love God, give worship without the fear of rejection because we failed.

- h) True, some people may be better than others in the outward act and conduct but, that is not the basis for God's blessing in our lives—Jesus is.

You may be better than me, but nothing can you receive from God based on your own goodness. Isaiah 64:6 says “that all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.”

C. What can separate us from the Love of God?

Romans 8:32-39 “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- a) God’s unconditional love is bigger than all our problems and all our challenges. No matter what we are going through, we can count on God’s love for us because it is based on Jesus, not us. Therefore, it is unfailing and unending.
- b) God’s unconditional love for us spared not Jesus but delivered Him up to die and pay for all our sins. If He could do that, He will give us all things.
- c) If you are not persuaded of God’s love for you, you are missing out on what God has for you and you will not experience the fullness of God. If someone can talk you out of God’s love for you, you are not persuaded of it. Nothing should separate you from the love of God.

So, if sin was the issue for stopping God from blessing us, it has been paid for and resolved. It's no longer a barrier between us and God. Isaiah 59:1-2 has been fulfilled and taken care of. Our sins no longer separate us from the Lord because they have been paid for. Now enter into a personal relationship with the Lord by receiving Jesus, the payment, and ransom for all your sins.

For us to be grounded and rooted in the love of God, WE NEED TO KNOW THESE FOUR TRUTHS:

- 1) Known – 1 John 4:16
- 2) Believed – 1 John 4:16
- 3) Perceived – 1 John 3:16
- 4) Persuaded/Convinced – Romans 8:37-38

3. THE GOODNESS OF GOD

If you do not know or believe that God is a good God, if you have a wrong perspective of the Lord, you will not be committed. We all need a clear and biblical revelation of the goodness of God for us.

If we miss out on this revelation, we will struggle, and we will not have a vibrant relationship with God.

“Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.” Psalm 119:68

A. Doing good

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

- a) Jesus went about doing good, not bad, not evil. Why? Because He is a good God. In His doing good, He was portraying His heart and that of the Father.
- b) Healing is good. Jesus healed the sick many times.
- c) He set those who were oppressed of the devil free.
 - i) Notice that they were not oppressed by God, but of the devil.

B. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy

John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

- a) Any stealing, killing, and destroying is Satan, not God. Jesus came to give life not to take life. He gave it more abundantly.

C. Destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8 "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (Emphasis mine)

- a) This verse clearly shows you that Jesus is not on the same side as the devil. He came to destroy the evil works of the devil such as sickness, sin, and all the plunder we see today in the world.
- b) **Not every work is a work of God.** If that is so, then Jesus came to destroy His own work and the Father's. This verse shows that there is such a thing as the work of God and the work of the devil—not only one work, the work of God.

D. Every good and perfect gift

James 1:13-17 "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

- a) What kind of gifts come from God? Not bad or evil gifts, but rather good gifts. God is a good God who gives good gifts.
- b) Anyone who thinks that the bad things come from God is in error because only good gifts come from God.

E. Not to destroy lives

Luke 9:51-56 "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye, know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."

- a) These disciples wanted to do exactly what God allowed through Elijah in the Old Testament, but the response of Jesus was out of this world. It was a shock to the disciples. He told them that he did not come to destroy lives but to save them.
- b) How can you save those that you came to destroy and kill? Will any be left to die for?

- c) The Word of God makes it clear over and over again that God has no pleasure in death and destruction.
 - i) "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."—Ezekiel 18:30-32; Ezekiel 33:11.