Session 12 Foundation to David's Intimacy with God: Confidence in Love

I. CONFIDENCE IN LOVE BEFORE GOD

A. David had a revelation that he was dear to God and precious to Him even in his weakness. David understood that his spiritual immaturity was not perceived by God as rebellion. Rebellion and immaturity outwardly may sometimes look the same, but the heart is very different. God sees the heart.

B. Confidence in love before God is necessary in order to enjoy intimacy with God. This requires living in the reality of our "belovedness" before God along with the confidence that God sees us as genuine (authentic) lovers of God. All of the redeemed are Beloved of God.

Ps. 60:5 That Your beloved may be delivered

Ps. 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye

Rom 1:7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you

Rom 9:25 He says..."I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her beloved, who was not beloved."

C. David had an unusual confidence in God's mercy (Ps. 13:5; 18:19) even in failure and weakness (Ps. 32; 38; 51; 69), David had unusual ability to fully receive the free mercy and goodness of God.

Ps. 13:5 I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation

Ps. 18:1 I will love You, O LORD...19. He delivered me because He delighted in me. 35…Your gentleness has made me great.

Ps. 130:3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

D. A believer confident in love before God will be more committed, resilient and persistent than others who constantly live under the threats and fears of failure and punishment. The most effective way to motivate people to 100-fold obedience is to establish them in confidence in love before God.

Ps. 56:8 You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book? 9. When I cry out to You, then my enemies will turn back; this I know, because God is for me.

Ps. 103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: 3. Who forgives all your iniquities…8. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

10. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 13. As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14. For He knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. 17. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him…

Ps 119:132 Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name...
159 Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness.

Mic. 7:18 Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. 19 He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

E. David's primary identity (value and success) was established in who he was spiritually or who he was in his intimacy with God. In other words, who he was before God as "one that God loved" then as "one who loved God" in return (overflowed to others). In this and by the anointing of the Spirit, David ***felt*** the power of being loved by God and of loving (God/others) in return.

F. David's primary paradigm of success was in being successful before God (which is ultimate success) with the "anointing to love and live in meekness." This was the first way in which David saw himself and measured (evaluated) the success of his life. In other words, he ***felt successful before God in context to how much he grew in the anointing of love.***

G. Summary: David's primary identity was in being one who was ***"loved*** (by God) ***and was a lover*** (to God/others) ***therefore, successful."*** Because David felt the power of being loved and of loving, therefore, he felt successful even when his kingship was threatened.

II. THE CORE IDENTITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE – TWO-FOLD

Mt. 3:17 A voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Mt. 17:5 While He was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

A. ***My beloved Son*** – being beloved of God (God's favorite)

B. ***In whom I am well pleased*** – being authentic lovers of God (not hypocrites because our love is weak)

C. This is the place that disillusionment is conquered and the place holy zeal is truly awakened.

Rev. 12:10…for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night...

1. We go the Father to find out who we are instead of going to people. Here we receive our identity or the definition of who we are in order to release God's justice in our lives.

2. This is the number one battleground in the spirit. The two-fold accusation is against these two truths. First, the enemy accuses us of being rejected by God, telling us that we have gone too far or that it is too late to come back. Then he accuses us of being false in our love back to God as hopeless hypocrites.

III. THE BELOVED OF GOD: BEING ONE OF GOD'S FAVORITES

A. Jesus loves us as the Father's loves Him, making each of God's people one of His favorites.

Jn. 15:9 AS the Father loved Me, I ALSO have loved you…

Jn. 17:23…that the world may know that You…have loved them AS You have loved Me.

Lk. 15:20 He arose and came to his Father. But when he was still a great way off, his Father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

B. John wrote of himself as the disciple who Jesus loved: God's favorite (Jn. 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20)

Jn. 21:20 Then Peter…saw the disciple** (John) **whom Jesus loved…

C. We must "get into" this vast ocean of endless experience of Divine love. The inexhaustible sea of Divine love is declared in these passages.

Eph. 3:18 ...may be able to comprehend...what is the width and length and depth and height--to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge...

D. God's love is a boundless and eternal ocean of love.

Jer. 31:3 The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."

IV. IN WHOM I AM PLEASED: BEING AUTHENTIC LOVERS OF GOD

A. The truth of being authentic lovers of God while in our weakness was emphasized after Peter's failure.

Jn. 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon….do you love Me?" Peter…said, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

B. The Bride in the Song of Solomon understood her beauty before God even in her weakness.

Song 1:5 I am dark, but lovely...

Song 1:15 You are fair** (beautiful)**, my love!…You have dove's eyes.

Song 2:14 Let Me see your face…for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

C. David experienced the joy of being an authentic lover of God in his weakness. (See Ps. 32; 40; 103).

Ps. 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to… the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. 2. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity…3. For I acknowledge my transgressions...

D. The redeemed as the beloved of God may resist God's love.

2 Cor. 6:1 We...plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

Heb. 10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Rom. 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Neh 13:26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin.

Jer 12:7 I have forsaken My house...I have given the dearly beloved of My soul into the hand of her enemies.

V. THIS COMBINATION OF BEING LOVED AND LOVERS OF GOD.

A. This combination of both truths is emphasized in the Song of Solomon

Song 2:16 My Beloved is mine, and I am His...

B. Jesus' teaching in context to the Pharisees in Matt. 12

Mt. 12:7 But if you had known what this means, `I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

Mt. 12:20 A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench, till He sends forth justice to victory; And in His name Gentiles will trust.

C. Our spiritual identity as a born-again believer: before God we are regarded as alive from the dead

Rom. 6:13…present yourselves to God as BEING ALIVE FROM THE DEAD, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

1. Are you a slave of sin who struggles to love God or are you a lover of God who struggles with sin?

2. We must present ourselves before God by defining ourselves as lovers of God and not by our most recent struggle. We do not define ourselves by our struggle. Yes, we acknowledge struggle. However, we define ourselves as a genuine lover of God who struggles.