

## ***Confidence in Love: The Foundation for Passion, Persistence and Prevailing Faith***

Confidence in love before God- enjoying our relationship with the Lord to the point that our hearts burn before Him, requires that we live in a two-fold reality; we must live with the understanding of our “belovedness” before God and the fact that we are authentic lovers of God. A believer confident in love before God will be significantly more committed, resilient and persistent than others who live under the threats and fears of punishment. This is the most effective way to motivate people unto 100 fold obedience. We have to do more than just call them to dedication and challenge them to forsake compromise. The spiritually immature are not rebellious, they’re just immature. Immaturity and rebellion may look the same outside but inside they’re very different.

### **I. THE CORE IDENTITY OF GOD’S PEOPLE ARE TWO FOLD**

***“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” Matt 3:17***

- A. “My beloved Son” – being beloved of God; God’s favorite
- B. “In whom I am well pleased” – being authentic lovers of God, not hopeless hypocrites

**This is the place where accusation is conquered and the place where holy zeal is truly awakened.** We need to go to the Father to find out who we are, not to people. This is the number one battleground of life in the spirit. This two-fold truth is attacked by Satan with a two-fold accusation. First, he accuses us of being rejected by God, telling us we are too far gone, that we have done too much and that it’s too late. Then, he will accuse us of being false in our love back to God, calling us hypocrites.

***“... for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before God day and night, has been cast down”. Rev. 12:10***

The order that we receive these truths is important. First, we must receive that we are beloved of God, then we must receive that we are genuine in our love while on the journey to maturity.

### **II. THE BELOVED OF GOD, MATT. 3:17a, GOD’S FAVORITE**

- A. As Jesus is the Father’s beloved, so the Church is beloved of God. This is the inexhaustible sea of Divine love declared in Eph. 3:18 and Jer. 31:3

***“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you...” Jn. 15:9***

***“... that the world may know that You have sent Me , and have loved them as You have loved Me” Jn. 17:23***

***“And 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.” Lu. 15:20***

- B. The disciple who Jesus loved, God’s favorite- Jn. 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20

*“Then Peter...saw the disciple whom Jesus loved...” Jn. 21:20*

*We must get into the endless vast ocean of God’s love; we must experience it firsthand.*

*“May we be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Eph. 3:18-19*

*“The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you.” Jer. 31:3*

C. The redeemed are beloved of God.

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

*“That Your beloved may be delivered.” Ps. 60:5*

*“Dark am I, yet lovely...” Song 1:5*

*“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.” Song 2:1*

*“Let Me see your face, let Me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.” Song 2:14*

*“Did not Solomon....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 Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin.” Neh. 13:26*

*“What has my beloved to do in My house, having done lewd deeds...? When you do evil, then you rejoice.” Jer. 11:15*

*“...I have left My heritage; I have given the **DEARLY BELOVED OF MY SOUL** into the hand of her enemies.” Jer. 12:7*

*“...My covenant they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord.” Jer. 31:32*

*“To all who are in Rome, **BELOVED OF GOD**...” Rom. 1:7*

### **III. BEING AUTHENTIC LOVERS EVEN WHEN WE ARE WEAK**

A. Peter was authentic in his love toward God even in the midst of great weakness. Turn to and read Jn. 21:3-17

B. The prodigal in weakness and immaturity, repents and returns

*“And 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.” Lu. 15:20*

C. The Bride in Song of songs

*“Dark am I, yet lovely..” 1:5*

*“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.” 2:1*

*“Let Me see your face, let Me hear your voice” 2:14*

David experienced the joy of being an authentic lover of God, even in the midst of his great weakness.

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

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

*Ps.60:5 That Your beloved may be delivered.*

*Ps.38:3 There is no soundness in my flesh because...of my sin. 4. For my iniquities have gone over my head...9. Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You. 15. For in You, O LORD, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. 18. For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. 20. Those also who render evil for good, they are my adversaries, because I follow what is good.*

*Ps.51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to... the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions...6 You will make me to know wisdom. 12 Restore to me the joy of my salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. 13. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways....15. O Lord...my mouth shall forth Your praise. 17. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart- these O God, You will not despise.*

*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. 10. In God ( I will praise His word) ....11. In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. 12. Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praise to You, 13.....that I may walk before God in the light of the living?*

*Ps.69:1 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. 5. O God, You know my foolishness; and my sins are not hidden from You. 13.... my prayer is to You, O Lord... in the multitude of Your mercy....16. Hear me, O Lord, for Your loving-kindness is good....30. I will praise the name of God with a song, and magnify Him with thanksgiving. 32. The humble shall see this and be glad; and you who seek God, your hearts shall live. 33. For the Lord hears the poor, and does not despise His prisoners.*

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