

THE UNCONQUERABLE LOVE OF THOSE WHO LOVE GOD

Part 15 Romans Chapter Eight

Romans 8:28 Berean Literal Bible

*And we know that God works together all things for good to **those loving God**, to those being [The] called according to His purpose.*

I confess, I was a little deterred by this phrase, '**Those who love God**' ... because once again it seemed to be saying ... **this is something I have to do**. This is what all religion says: 'You must do 'this' to appease God' ... 'You must do 'that' to please God'. Please or Appease ... it's still us having to do something! It's all our effort ... Why doesn't it say, '**Those whom God loves**'?

***The Hindus** have over a million gods and most need to be appeased by some form of sacrifice. **The Incas** ... had to try and appease the sun god by offering human sacrifices ... But even in **Christianity today** we get into this thinking ... I have to live a certain way to please God or be accepted by God. I have to attend church on Sunday ... I have to give my money ... I have to help people in need ... While all these latter-mentioned things are good, they do not move God to favour us. In fact all our works are like filthy rags before Him. We couldn't begin to scratch the surface of **HIS UNATTAINABLE STANDARDS**.*

BUT 'LOVING GOD' IS AN EVEN GREATER TASK ... THIS NOT ONLY REQUIRES ACTION OR SACRIFICE ... OR DEDICATION ... BUT IS SOMETHING THAT REQUIRES MY HEART. 'LOVING GOD' IS FAR DEEPER THAN DOING SOMETHING FOR GOD. IT'S HAVING A HEART THAT ADORES HIM ... THAT LONGS FOR HIM ... IT IS AN EVEN MORE IMPOSSIBLE TASK IN OUR OWN STRENGTH ... WE CANNOT DO IT, AND YET, IN THE FIRST COMMANDMENT, GOD TOLD US WE HAD TO DO IT.

Deuteronomy 6:5 **SLIDE**

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength. (Jesus called this the Greatest of all commandments – Matthew 22:37-38)

GOD KNEW WE COULD NEVER ATTAIN THE HEART CONDITION OF ACTUALLY AND GENUINELY 'LOVING HIM'. SO WE MAY AS WELL STOP BEFORE WE START! AFTER ALL ... I'M GONNA FAIL ANYWAY.

*I saw a movie about a young teenage girl becoming a nun. She said she loved God but I realised she and her fellow novitiates only **wanted to love God**. They couldn't love God. All their service and sacrifice (-she starved herself) was to try to get God to love them.*

Even if I could muster some love for God I certainly couldn't love God as He deserves to be loved.

THAT'S THE WHOLE DIFFERENCE WITH TRUE CHRISTIANITY AS OPPOSED TO ALL OTHER RELIGIONS ... GOD ACTUALLY SAYS, 'You can't love me the way I require you to love Me.'

SLIDE *AND YET OUR VERSE SPEAKS ABOUT, THOSE WHO DO 'LOVE GOD'. SO WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE WHO 'LOVE HIM'? AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM TO CAUSE THEM TO TRULY 'LOVE GOD'?*

THIS LOVE HAS BEEN IMPARTED INTO THEM BY HIS GRACE
THEY HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN BY GOD'S SPIRIT, WHO IS LOVE. THEY HAVE BEEN CHANGED AT THE CORE OF THEIR BEING ... THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW HEART LIKE GOD'S HEART

If you are a Born Again Christian, God has given you an unnatural love for Him ... MIRACULOUS, extraordinary, supernatural ... IT'S LIKE THE FOLLOWING ...

Romans 5:5 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

... The love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit ...

When a young woman gives birth to her first child ... something is also born inside her heart. It is a unique love for that child. From that moment on ... everything in this lady's life has changed.

*BEFORE SHE LOVED TO PARTY ... **SLIDE***

But after giving birth to her precious baby ...

*A NEW LOVE HAS BEEN BORN IN HER HEART **SLIDE** ... A greater love – she now has an obsession with a little person. No longer does she want to go to rave parties with her single friends ... she wants to be with the one she loves.*

LOVE HAS BEEN BORN IN HER HEART, that has changed her deepest desire ...

So it is with being born again of the Spirit of God, we now have an unnatural love for God whom we have never seen (1 Peter 1:8)

Your new heart has an Eternal ... unnatural love in it. It comes with it.

YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A HEART OF FAITH AND A HEART OF LOVE FOR GOD.

IT'S SUPERNATURAL ... You didn't have it before but now you do.

NOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO LOVE GOD ... YOUR HEART CAN'T STOP LOVING GOD ... THIS HAS BEEN PLACED IN YOU.

IT'S A DISPOSITION OF LOVE THAT HAS COME WITH THE NEW HEART ... a penchant ...

FaceBook Post: 'Those Who Love God' are not those who have to keep trying to love God to be approved of God. 'Those Who Love God' are those who have received from God a new heart of divine love that inherently loves God. When you were 'Born Again' with the Life of God ... You were also Born Again in the Love of God.

1 John 4:16 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*And we have come to know and believe **the love that God has for in us**. God is love; whoever abides in love abides in God ... and God in him.*

1 John 4:19

We love because He first loved us.

But this is greater than just being shown love ... **This is having love imparted into us.** *It's more than the lady who is won over to her suitor because he shows and demonstrates his love for her ... so she responds to his love and loves him because he first loved her.*

THIS IS GREATER THAN THAT! This is not just response to His love ... THIS IS HIS LOVE BEING IMPARTED INTO US ... AND WE CAN'T HELP LOVING HIM.

IT'S NOT JUST 'LOVE' BEING 'SHOWN TO US' ... HIS LOVE HAS BEING 'GROWN IN US'.

AND YET EVEN GREATER ...

IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT YOU HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD.

IT'S MORE, THE LOVE OF GOD HAS YOU.

Oh love that will not let me go!

THIS LOVE OF GOD IN US IS OUR STABILITY AND SECURITY

Ephesians 3:17-18 NKJ, 19 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, **[already] being rooted and grounded in love,**¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ surpassing knowledge, so that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.*

NB: We are already rooted and grounded in Love ... It's not something we have to become.

THIS LOVE IN US IS INDESTRUCTABLE

SLIDE THE LOVE OF GOD IN US DOESN'T JUST SURVIVE IN TIMES OF TRIAL ...

THE LOVE OF GOD IN US THRIVES IN TIMES OF TRIAL.

No matter how arid conditions may become in your life, this love can never wither, wilt or fade; in fact it will grow stronger as your flesh gets weaker. This Love for God can never be conquered ... It will shine brighter as the days get darker. It is unconquerable.

James 1:12 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*Blessed is the man who endures **trial**, because, having been approved, he will receive **the crown of life** that He has promised to **those loving Him**.*

NB: The crown of life is for here and now ... authority in this world now. God is working for your good ... Through trial you emerge stronger ... and with greater authority ...

THIS IS THE GOOD THAT WORKS IN US THROUGH 'ALL THINGS'.

**OUR FLESH FAILS AND LOVE IS RELEASED THROUGH US ... PERMIATING OUR SOUL ...
GROUNDING OUR EMOTIONS ...**

DESIRE FOR HIM COMES TO THE FORE ...

**ARROGANCE ... INDEPENDENCE ... SELF-SEEKING ALL START TO FALL AWAY ... AS HIS LOVE
FLOWS THROUGH US ... TAKING ITS PLACE ...**

THE INSIDE MANIFESTING ON THE OUTSIDE ...

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

*(She says) Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; **for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame.** ⁷ **Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it.** If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised.*

IN HIS LOVE YOU ARE SAFE AND SECURE

Romans 8:35-39 **SLIDE**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?** ³⁶ **As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."** ³⁷ **Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors **through Him who loved us.* ³⁸ **For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,** ³⁹ **nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to **separate us from the love of God** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

IN HIS LOVE, THE DARKER IT GETS ... THE BRIGHTER HIS LOVE SHINES.

YOUR CHOICE

John 15:9 **SLIDE**

*As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide in My love.***

When trials come ... abide in My love. When sorrow comes ... abide in My love.

When Satan attacks ... abide in My love.

Jude 1:21 Berean Literal Bible

Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

THIS IS THE KEY TO ENDURING TRIALS ... THIS IS WHY PAUL SAYS - TO 'THOSE WHO LOVE GOD' **EVERYTHING WORKS FOR GOOD.**

LET'S LOOK AT 3 GOOD RESULTS FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD
WHILST GOING THROUGH 'ALL THINGS'

WE LOVE AND EXPERIENCE GREATER CLOSENESS TO HIM

IT'S ONE THING TO KNOW GOD LOVES US IN TIMES OF TRIAL

BUT **WE CAN ALSO LOVE HIM DURING THESE TIMES ... IN FACT TRIALS BRING OUT THIS LOVE FOR GOD THAT WE HAVE IN OUR HEARTS ...**

As the oppression gets heavier, we look up ... We allow this pressure to press us into Him, where we become closer than ever and **THIS WORKS FOR OUR GOOD.**

Song of Solomon 8:5 **SLIDE**

Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?

(She's been in the wilderness of trial ... but look how she comes out ... leaning upon the one she loves.)

During my cancer experience ... I would often sit in church – unable to stand because of weakness but would sense Jesus standing next to me as my head would lean on Him.

WE LOVE AND EXPERIENCE HIS WORD

Psalm 119: 97 *Christian Standard Bible (comp. verses 47, 48, 113, 119, 127)* **SLIDE**

Oh, how I love Your Instruction! It is my meditation all day long.

HIS WORD IS HIS LOVE LETTER TO US ... DO YOU SEE IT THAT WAY OR AS HARD COLD DOCTRINE?

If you love someone and they write a letter to you ... You can't wait to read it ...

You read it again and again ... You can probably quote some of it ...

We allow the love for His Word to rise in us ... It becomes our comfort and our wisdom.
We feed on it like a medicine.

I look back at my cancer journey and smile as I only now realise ... during that ugly time ... my love for His word ... His letter to me ... grew even stronger.
This is when I discovered His Grace.

SO DARKNESS CANNOT PUT OUT THE LIGHT OF LOVE IN YOUR HEART.

**WITH THIS LOVE IN OUR HEART, WE LOVE HIS WORD ... HIS LAW ... THIS IS NOT JUST THE LAW OF MOSES BUT THE WHOLE TEACHING OF GOD.
IF YOU HAVE THIS LOVE OF GOD ... YOU LOVE HIS WORD ... HIS TEACHING ...**

THIS LOVE CAUSES US TO KEEP HIS WORD

1 John 2:5 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

But whoever may keep His word, truly in him the love of God *has been perfected*. By this we know that we are [abiding] in Him.

NB: 'The Love of God *has [already] been perfected*' in the person before they keep His Word.

I used to think, I have to 'keep His Word' for God's love to be perfected in me. Once again it's a work to try and achieve something, but we should read this verse: 'The one in whom the love of God has been perfected keeps His word'.

It's the perfect love of God and love for God in us that causes us to want to keep His Word. It's not keeping His Word that perfects love in us.

WE LOVE AND LONG FOR HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

Hebrews 1:9 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

You have loved righteousness and have hated wickedness; because of this, God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of exultation above Your companions.

In times of backsliding ... in the darkness of our ongoing fleshly sin ... we now come to a place of grieving ... because we realise we actually do love His righteousness and we haven't been living it.

The love for His righteousness rises in our soul.

I start to grieve for the way my flesh takes me away ... And I feel His comfort ...

NB: When we grieve now, it's not out of condemnation ...

It's because we love His righteousness and we long for it ...

IT BECOMES SELF PROPOGATING ...

THE MORE WE SEE OF HIS CHARACTER FORMING IN US ... THE MORE WE LOVE HIS CHARACTER IN US AND DESIRE MORE OF HIS CHARACTER IN US ...

WE BECOME INDESTRUCTABLE.

WE CAN ABIDE IN HIS LOVE.

Psalm 73:25

Whom have I in heaven but You ... and there is none on Earth that I desire above you.
Your chief Desire ...

SUPPLIMENTARY

THIS LOVE OVERWHELMS AND COMPELS US

2 Corinthians 5:14

For the love of Christ compels us ...

ΣΥΝΕΧΕΙ (synechei) From sun and echo; to hold together, i.e. to compress or arrest;
figuratively: to compel, perplex, afflict, preoccupy.

Luke 12:50 NIV

*But I have a baptism to undergo, and what **constraint I am under** (I am distressed) until it is completed! - Same word ...*