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## The Love of the Father

- **What Does Our Heavenly Father's Love Look Like?**

**I John 3:1** *Behold, what manner of love (AMP translates "incredible quality of love) the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

**Romans 8:14-17** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. <sup>16</sup> The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: <sup>17</sup> And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

**Matthew 7:11** *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

Christ has redeemed, adopted, and given us what we need. This is a love that reached us when we were undeserving of love and transforms us as we keep His commandments and abide in them (**John 15:10**).

**I John 3:16-18** *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. <sup>17</sup> But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? <sup>18</sup> My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

- **The Love of God is an Active Love.**

First it reaches us, then its intent is to flow through us. It's not a one-time experience but is continual. It grows in us if we allow it to work.

**I Peter 4:7-9** *But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. <sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*

- **The Bible is Applicable.**

We can see parallels in our own lives but recognize that the love of God transcends the best of our love.

**Romans 5:8** *But God commendeth (demonstrates) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

He chose to take the first step while we were in sin, because He loved already. (**I John 4:19**).

Because God is a loving Father, He is looking for us to be healthy and grow. Things that a father looks for in healthy children - eating, resting, and eliminating waste.

➤ **Eating**

**I Peter 2:2-3** *Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

**Hebrews 6:1** *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,*

➤ **Resting**

**Psalm 4:8** *I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.*

**Isaiah 26:3** *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

**Matt 11-28:30** *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

➤ **Eliminating Waste**

**Colossians 3:5-6** *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: <sup>6</sup> For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

**Romans 6:12-13** *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. <sup>13</sup> Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

If we stop doing any of these three things we can hinder the growth process, and it's a sign that something in our life isn't right.

Let's continually seek to grow in Christ and allow His transformative work to be made complete in us.