



THE POWER OF LOVE FOR GOD

N.G.
DAVIDSON

AUTHOR OF LOVING JESUS AT ALL COSTS

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N. G. Davidson

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INTRODUCTION

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Deuteronomy 6:5

I once ask a little boy in those days, "Do you love your Dad? He replied, " Yes". Then I asked, "Why do you love your Dad?" And he said, "He is my Dad, I must love him."

The devil wants to attack your love for God and destroy it because he knows that if he can cut you off at your love root, your faith and everything else about your walk with God will be cut off as well. Your faith will not grow when your love is not growing. You lose everything when you lose your

love for God, for he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God. The love for God is as it were fire, the flame is the passion. You are not going to leave yourself to the ficklety of feelings, however, you must exercise your will to maintain, and stoke your love to keep and grow it. It is a matter of responsibility. This is clearer when we understand that to love God is a commandment. God commanded you to love him (Deut 6:5). Actually God sheds his love abroad in your heart by his Spirit as a Christian (Romans 5:5), but then you have to exercise yourself to maintain that love towards him, and not forsake it by coming down to the carnal realm and allowing carnal affections to rule your heart, depriving the operations of the Spirit's love in you.

CHAPTER 1

MAINTAINING YOUR LOVE FOR GOD

Maintaining love is the same as maintaining fire. You maintain fire by stoking it (that is feeding it with the right combustible materials and stirring it), and avoiding those things that can quench it. In like manner, you maintain your love for God by stoking; that is maintaining fellowship with God and the brethren. You fellowship with God through communication; that is studying the word, prayer, supplication, thanksgiving and praise -- communication is the soul of all relationships, and when that is in place, the love gets stronger and stronger. And then avoid all such things as can quench the love.

Stoking is not only feeding the fire, it includes stirring it, and that is engaging in active service to God. You stir the love by sacrificing yourself to his service, accepting it as necessity. And you will find out that the day you are not in your duty to God, you won't be comfortable. As you get engaged in active service for God, you stir your love to continue to burn.

But watch out, feeling good is not necessarily loving God. Feelings may come and go. Loving God is an act of will. When you set your will to love God and you go about it the feeling may come. You may not feel it, but God feels the love. God is spirit, so emotions are not really a factor in the equation of your love for God. A spirit can be in operation without you feeling it.

Feeling good is not feeling God and not feeling God is not losing God. That Jacob didn't know that where he slept was the gate of heaven, did not stop the operations going on there. You can be in despair yet God is with you. What God calls love towards him is an act of will not an outburst of emotions. You can be feeling good, yet God is angry with what you are doing. David was feeling good bringing the ark on a cart, not knowing that God was not pleased. What God calls love is finding his will and doing it, keeping his commandments and serving him all with a right motive. Whenever we slack in doing God's will, we slack in love for God.

The heart to love God is first of all a gift from God. Carnal man can't love God. A

sinner dead in sin can't love a holy God. The hunger, willingness and joy to love (to please) God which is a passion for God is an in-working of the Holy Spirit in the soul. Passions grow when you yield yourself to them. So as an act of your will, when you yield yourself to the wooing of the Spirit going on in your soul, God says you have set your love on him. In Psalm 91:14, God said *because he has set his love upon me....* What this further means is that you commit yourself to please God in all things. What God sees is that we have control over our hearts to either set it towards him or not, so he commands: *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. (Deut. 6:5)*

CHAPTER 2

HOW THE DEVIL CRIPPLES YOUR LOVE

The heart is the seat of love and your will is what is important to God in the equation of love. When God shines forth his love in your heart, it is only as you exercise your will to love him that he empowers the love. As you give him first place in your heart and priority he sheds forth his love more abundantly in your heart to love him. So Christ says, seek ye first the kingdom of God (Mt 6:33). But what constitute God's kingdom? His will! **And what is the heart that loves God? The heart that is set to go about the Lord's will.** God's love is a doing love and not a wishing or saying love. God's love is *a doing from the heart* love. That

means you have to watch out for your doing. Whatever weakens your doing, has weakened your loving; whatever stops your doing, has stopped your loving. Satan has no other way to stop your love for God other than weakening or stopping your will to do what God says. Let me list some ways Satan would stop your love for God.

1 despair: losing hope through certain disappointments and failures can cause you to lose heart of love for God. Watch out against despair: It is Satan attacking you.

2. Trials and tribulations

Satan hauls trials and tribulations at you to hinder and stop your labour of love for God. And eventually weakening and killing your love for God all together. Never allow Satan prevail. Never see trials as God hatred

towards you. Trials are from the devil wanting you to curse God like he did with Job. They are the exam for your next level promotion. Trials are meant to be fought and conquered. Gather knowledge, build your faith, endure hardness with patience and fight your way to victory. Don't let Satan get the win. You are the one bound to win. Trying times are training grounds; God's wish is for you to prevail. Just gather enough knowledge, because his word says my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6), fight and you will win.

3. Wrong association:

The Bible says iron sharpeneth iron (prov 27:17). Wood can't sharpen iron, instead it will make it blunt. Don't hang around wrong

company: those who don't love God or whose love for God has waxed cold as well as those who don't take God seriously because you can't be different from them in the end. You are the average of the company you keep. Evil communication corrupt good manners.

4. Depression

Depression is a period of low morale or unhappiness. Guard against depression. Depression can be as a result of disappointments, failure, etc, but the truth is this, depression is a spirit. Whatever the individual passed through was simply hijacked by the demon of depression to cause loss of faith, loss of love for God, loss of hope, and even suicide. So long you excuse it by whatever happens, it takes

cover. Depression is a demon itself and must be rebuked when perceived.

5. Love for other things:

Nothing separates a person faster from the love of God than the love for other things.

He that loves father or mother more than Jesus, Jesus says is not worthy of him. When Solomon loved many strange women, his love for God faded away. When Demas loved this present world, he backslided.

When Judas loved money, he betrayed his master. The Bible is very clear. Love not this world nor the things of this world, he that loveth this world and the things of this world, the love of the father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16. Keep yourself from the love of money: the Holy Spirit says it is the root of all evil. Keep yourself from inordinate

affection for other things. Let nothing compete with your love for God. Keep yourself from the lust for material things and sinful fashion or vogue. Maintain a life holy and acceptable unto the Lord. Nothing is what loving with all your soul except your maker.

6. Contrary circumstances:

The devil knows the human heart that it grows cold towards a thing when it breaks routine. Satan would send you negative and opposing circumstances to hinder you from doing your routine service or devotion to God. Never you allow yourself to be stopped. Just let him know he can't stop you, come rain, come shine. This was Daniel's secret. He kept his routine prayer despite Satan's manipulation from the government.

7. Temptation:

Satan would tempt you with sin so that you can sin against God, knowing that sin separates the human heart from God.

8. False prophets and false teachers

False prophets and teachers are Satan's instruments to get people away from the genuine love of God into the love for sin, the world and even worship of the devil.

CHAPTER 3

THE POWER OF LOVE FOR GOD

Love is stronger than death and the love of a believer towards his maker is one of his mighty strongholds. The devil will do anything to fight your love for God because in love with God, you dominate over the devil. Let me show you the power of a love relationship with God.

1. He that dwells in love, dwells in God (1 John 4:16). He that dwells in God is not vulnerable. God is the supreme power that be, and he that dwells in love of God dwells in the supreme power that be. That puts him above the devil and his cruel forces.

2. The love of God makes you a candidate of God's best. According to 1Corinthians 2:9, eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him.

3. Love for God brings you into personal experiential knowledge of God, and they that know their God the Bible says shall be strong and they shall do exploits (Daniel 11:32). Many have head knowledge of God. They know he exists, but do not have a one on one relationship with him. Faith worketh by love(Gal 5:6), so your belief in God is not enough, your love walk with God is what brings you into personal knowledge of him so that he is no longer *our God* to you, but

my God to you. Jesus make is clear in John 14:21

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

4. When you love God, he will love you in return and that brings you under his protection. God begins to guard you jealously: whoever touches you is in trouble! When Pharaoh and Abimelech snatched Sarah, Abraham's wife, at different times, the Bible never recorded that Abraham prayed, but God went against them terribly and heavily that they had to retribute her with gifts and apology.

Abimelech had to beg for Abraham's prayer.
Zechariah 2:8 says,

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.

When Miriam, Moses sister, came against Moses, God afflicted her with leprosy (Num 12:10). God said concerning David, a man after God's heart in Psalms 89:20-23

*I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him. **And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him.***

5. Your love for God commits God to your deliverance.

God delivers his lover from all troubles and battles, all oppressions of the devil and possessions of unclean spirits. In Psalm 91:14, God makes his heart for his lover clear, and you can take God for his word irrevocably:

*Because he hath set his love upon me,
therefore will I deliver him: Psalms 91:14*

6. Your love for God makes you superior to your enemies whoever they are.

*For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to **love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto***

him; ...There shall no man be able to stand before you: Deuteronomy 11:22,25

7. Loving God makes God love you and that puts you above the curses of your enemies.

Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee. Deuteronomy 23:5

CHAPTER 4

THE PROOFS OF LOVE FOR GOD

It is a known truth that love is not proven unless demonstrated in action. Where love is, love acts. Below are seven proofs of the love for God in the heart.

1. Willing to please God rather than people or yourself. The truth is whom you love, you seek to please. Love moves you towards pleasing not offending. Love, the Bible says, seeketh not her own (1Cor 13:5). Love for God makes you seek God's interest selflessly. But when you do that, God in love response meets all your needs (Mt 6:33). Many will be quick to say all this love talk

seems to say we have to love God first. No, man can't love God first. It all begins with God. God loves first (1Jn 4:10). He created man and loved him first before he said man should love him in return. He so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son to save all. He loves first. The Bible says while we were yet sinners God loved us. But the right response to love is love. If you do not love God who loves you, you neglect his love and fall short of the benefits of his love. Jesus said in John 15:10

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Willingness to please is the point. Whom you love, you seek to please. Those whom seek to please themselves love themselves.

But nothing must compete with the love of God in the life of anyone who says he loves God. Yes, because nothing is worth it. You can't love your life more than the one who gave you the life. Those who seek to please themselves can't love God. They don't please God. Lovers of self are not lovers of God; conversely, lovers of God are not lovers of self. This is the point: the lover of God doesn't care whether it pleases him, but rather that it pleases God.

Men pleasers too can't be lovers of God. There are too many men pleasers and few God lovers. There are many conflicts between the will of God and the fallen will of man. People don't like the way of truth. People hate the ways of God and if you don't want to offend people, forget it, you can't

please God. Loving God is the beginning of being hated by the world, and pleasing God is the beginning of displeasing people. Men pleasers can't be lovers of God, and lovers of God don't seek to please men.

2. Willing to suffer with him: suffering no doubt proves love. The love of a mother is best displayed in her sufferings for her children. Any woman who can't suffer with her husband truly does not love him, vice-versa. The Bible clearly states in Hebrews 13:13, Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. We must bear his reproach not run from it. Willing to suffer for God's sake and his course is the height of love. The Apostles died for his sake. Sufferings don't quench true love, instead they reveal it.

3. Willing to unlove the world

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.1 John 2:15

What is the world? It is its system of self-seeking, sin loving and vainglory

4. Willing to sacrifice anything for God:

God's demand of Abraham's son for a sacrifice didn't only test Abraham's faith, it was a test of love, for faith worketh by love (Gal 5:6). He specifically pointed out in his demand: "thy son whom thou lovest" (Gen 22:2). Abraham proved his love by how much he was willing to let go for God.

Willingness to let go of anything including one's life for God without any ulterior

motive or hypocrisy is a proof of a burning love for God.

5. The love for the brethren: John 3:16 and 1John 3:16 are complementary.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 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. John 3:16; 1 John 3:16

The sense of the love of Christ for us despite our sins when we were yet sinners and inspite of our imperfections now that we are saints should compel us to love all men, how much more our Christian brethren with whom we are blood related by virtue of the blood of Christ. 1 John 3:17 says:

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?

1 John 4:20-21 makes it even much clearer:

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

6. The heart to give. A heart that loves God doesn't feel reluctant to give to God. Strong love is a compelling force. Abraham was willing to give up his Isaac like a fool when he was not. At God's demand, he was

strangely eager to let go. No discussion with his wife; early the next day morning he was on the go to give God what he had demanded. Love is a compelling force. It compels to give. Love just gives -- no reservation, no afterthought, no special mature reflection, no self consideration. The heart to give was what led the widow of Mark 12:42 to give her last two mites. Love gives. True love gives truly. True love gives its best. For God so loved the world that he gave his best, his only begotten son (John 3:16). And Christ so loved the world that he gave his best, his blood, for the sins of men. The selfish and stingy, who always ties strings to his givings neither truly loves God nor man. The widow of Mark 12:42 gave God all the little she had without God

demanding it, yet without asking God for a blessing, and yet more without Christ promising her millions in return -- the truth is this: love compels to give and giving is fun to the heart that loves God.

7. Loving what he loves; and hating what he hates

You can't love without hating. You can't love truth and not hate lie. You can't love righteousness without hating sin. You can't love God and not hate the devil. You can't love Christ and not hate the Antichrist. You can't love God and love idols. This is the proof of love for God -- loving God to the point of loving what he loves and hating what he hates.