

SONG OF SONGS: YOUR LOVE IS BETTER PART III

Iglesia Houses of Light • Agosto 1 - 2, 2020 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Psal. 63:2-3

***"I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory.
3 Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!" (NLT)***

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Today we will conclude our reflection on the seven fundamental principles that help us understand the kind of affection that God has for us; which is better than the delights of this world as expressed by the beloved in **Songs 1:2**.
- B. Once we experience salvation in Christ we are defined by God's passion for us and by our heart's sincere cry to be someone who responds to God's love with all our hearts.

II. PRINCIPLE No. 1: GOD LOVES AND BLESSES EVEN UNBELIEVERS

Jn. 3:16 *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."*

Ro. 5:8 *"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

- A. It is true that God loves everyone but not everyone responds the same to this love. **God allows blessings on bad people but we should not confuse His blessings on them as approval of what they do.**

Mt. 5:45 *"For he [God] makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."*

III. PRINCIPLE No. 2: GOD ENJOYS AND DELIGHTS IN IMMATURE BELIEVERS

- A. Jesus rejoices in us when we begin the growth process with sincere repentance as revealed in the parable of the prodigal son.

Lk. 15:18-22 *"[the prodigal son said:] I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned...'²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him....²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet."*

- B. Jesus has compassion for prodigal children and revealed Heavenly Father's joy for those who turn to Him by showing us how He fully receives and restores the one who has been lost. This newly repentant son had many areas of his life that still needed transformation. Every time a believer genuinely repents God gives him a new start as a "first-class citizen".

Lam. 3:22-23 *"...his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every*

morning; great is your faithfulness."

- C. The Bible says that God **delights** to have mercy on us.

Mic. 7:18 "...He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love."

- D. God knows our weakness even more than ourselves and does not discipline us to the degree that we deserve it.

Psal. 103:10-14 "He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him... 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust."

IV. PRINCIPLE No. 3: GOD'S JOY IS NOT THE SAME AS HIS APPROVAL

- A. Just because God delights in us does not mean that he overlooks or approves of the areas that need to be transformed in our lives. God has **patience** but we cannot confuse His patience with His approval. God patiently supports us in His love as He works to lead us to repentance..

Ro. 2:4 "Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"

- B. **When we refuse to honestly and completely confront sin in our hearts, we are no less loved by God, but we do have losses in various ways. We minimize our ability to experience the joy of our salvation, the spirit of revelation, fellowship with others, and receive eternal rewards.**

V. PRINCIPLE No. 4: GOD'S DISCIPLINE DOES NOT EQUAL HIS REJECTION

- A. God's correction is not rejection, but a sign of His love.

Heb. 12:5b-6 "...My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

Pr. 3:12 "for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights"

- B. God did not forget His people Israel even though they were in a stage of disobedience.

Psal. 78:37-39 "Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant. 38 Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath. 39 He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again."

- C. Jesus rebukes, but it is because he loves believers who need repentance.

Rev. 3:19 *"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent."*

- D. Being disciplined by God means that He cares about us and has not given up on us.

1 Cor. 11:32 *"But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world."*

- E. It is terrible when someone "gets their way" with sin because it means that God is letting that person continue in their evil.

Rom. 1:24 *"Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity..."*

Psal. 73:17b-18 *"...then I discerned their end. 18 Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin."*

- F. We must be sure that God, in His love for us, will manifest His zeal for us, which requires us to live in unconditional obedience. He jealously insists on what deepens our relationship with Him and results in our growth..

Jas. 4:5 *"Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us?"*

VI. PRINCIPLE No. 5: GOD IS AFFLICTED BY THE PERSISTENT EVIL OF HIS PEOPLE

Is. 63:9 *"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old."*

- A. God feels the pain for those whom He disciplines and continues to consider them His loved ones.

Jer. 12:7 *"...I have given the beloved of my soul into the hands of her enemies."*

- B. Jesus will vomit lukewarm believers out of His mouth. This is not to say that you are throwing them out, but that you are disappointed or distressed about their lives.

Rev. 3:16 *" So, because you are lukewarm... I will spit you out of my mouth."*

- C. We can only fulfill our calling and destiny in this era by walking in faithful obedience and with a history of diligence seeking God. **Faithfulness does not make us deserve our call but rather positions us to receive grace in order to fulfill it.**

2 Thes. 1:11 *"To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power."*

VII. PRINCIPLE No. 6: SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES DO NOT GIVE US MORE FAVOR BEFORE GOD

Eph. 2:8-9 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your*

own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- A. **Spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, meditation, etc.) are ordained by God as a necessary way to position ourselves for more grace.** The power is in the "furnace of the presence of God" not in our cold hearts, which are positioned before it.
- B. God gives us more of Him to the extent that we hunger for a more intimate relationship with Him and not for how much He loves us.

Mt. 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

- C. God honors the value we place on the relationship with Him by giving us more, according to our spiritual hunger (**Gal. 6:8**). God will not delight an obedient believer in eternity any more than he delights today (**Mal. 3: 6**).

VIII. PRINCIPLE # 7: MATURITY ALLOWS US TO RECEIVE MORE (NOT TO BE MORE LOVED)

- A. The Lord determines the measure of power that He has planned for each believer but entrusts a **greater measure** of power to the one who is mature even though he loves us all equally.

Mt. 25:14-15a "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man... who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability..."

- B. Our obedience positions us to walk according to the measure that He has already planned.

Phil. 3:12b "...but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me..."

- C. **God doesn't love people with great ministerial power or influence but will entrust them more as they mature.**
- D. We are given spiritual gifts through faith (**Acts 3:12; Gal. 3: 5**) yet **our spiritual maturity provides protection against Satan's attack on those who operate in the anointing.** There are four things that increase when we experience more of the power of the Holy Spirit: **God's zeal, Satan's wrath, man's demands, and our emotional capacities.**

IX. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **Do you believe that God delights in you despite correcting and disciplining you? Explain**
2. **Do you consider yourself to be more loved by God because you pray more? So what happens to the one who prays the most?**
3. **How do you feel knowing that God can trust you with more power when you mature in your love for Him?**