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GETTING A RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

Session 3: Intimacy with God

I. Confidence in love before God

- A. David had a revelation that he was dear to God and precious to Him even in his weakness. David understood that his spiritual immaturity was not perceived by God as rebellion. Rebellion and immaturity outwardly may sometimes look the same, but the heart is very different. God sees the heart.
- B. Confidence in love before God is necessary in order to enjoy intimacy with God. This requires living in the reality of our “belovedness” before God along with the confidence that God sees us as genuine (authentic) lovers of God. All of the redeemed are Beloved of God.

That Your beloved may be delivered.

Ps. 60:5

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you.

Rom 1:7

He says... “I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her beloved, who was not beloved.”

Rom 9:25

- C. David had an unusual confidence in God’s mercy (Ps. 13:5; 18:19) even in failure and weakness (Ps. 32; 38; 51; 69), David had unusual ability to fully receive the free mercy and goodness of God.

I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Ps. 13:5

I will love You, O LORD...19. He delivered me because He delighted in me. 35... Your gentleness has made me great.

Ps. 18

- D. A believer confident in love before God will be more committed, resilient and persistent than others who constantly live under the threats and fears of failure and punishment.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: 3. Who forgives all your iniquities...8. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 10. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 13. As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14. For He knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. 17. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him...
Ps. 103:2

Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. 19 He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.
Mic. 7:18-19

- E. David's primary paradigm of success was in being successful before God (which is ultimate success) with the "anointing to love and live in meekness." This was the first way in which David saw himself and measured (evaluated) the success of his life. In other words, he felt successful before God in context to how much he grew in the anointing of love.

II. The Bridal Paradigm:

A. Our View of the Kingdom:

The Kingdom of God can rightly be compared to many things; as Jesus Himself used many parables depicting the Kingdom in various ways. The correct view however is the collective total of what these parables all point to. One of the most neglected of these realities has been the Bridal Paradigm of the Kingdom wherein we the saints are referred to as the Bride, and Jesus is the Heavenly Bridegroom who will return for His wedding day (Re. 19:5-9).

B. Jesus the Bridegroom:

Jesus used this type of language about Himself as did John the Baptist and the aged Apostle John recorded Heaven's testimony about how the Church would be described in the final days.

To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less.
Jn. 3:27-30

*Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast."
Mt. 9:15*

*The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!...He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."
Re. 22:17-20*

C. Removing the Veil:

This is not a theoretical approach to the scriptures, it is the actual storyline of the End Times and seeing it clearly greatly changes the way we approach God, view ourselves, and the Last Days. Once this veil is removed from our eyes we interact with Jesus differently in prayer, and the worship songs go to a whole new level of intimacy (Eph. 3:16-19).

III. Dark but Lovely

A. Overcoming the Sin Nature:

Even after we begin to see ourselves from the perspective that in addition to being His servants, His sons, and His Body, God calls us the Bride of Christ, we still have the hurdle to overcome of our sin nature that remains after salvation and still follows us into our Bridal revelation. His love for us also follows us and is continually able to save us from our sin.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him.

Ro. 8:8-9

B. Dark but Lovely:

The freedom is found in understanding that God knows us completely, we are genuine lovers of God and we still struggle against sin; or we are dark but lovely.

I am dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, Like the tents of Kedar, Like the curtains of Solomon. Do not look upon me, because I am dark, Because the sun has tanned me. My mother's sons were angry with me; They made me the keeper of the vineyards, But my own vineyard I have not kept.

SS. 1:5-6

C. He Delights in Us:

Even though we are sinners His delight is in us. Look at the testimony of king David written right after a long season of his own compromise.

*He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.
Ps. 18:19*

D. A Chosen People:

We are absolutely called to war against sin, but even as we war we are called His, beloved and full of purpose. See how Peter addresses this head on.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

1Pe. 2:9-11

IV. Our Focus

A. Foundation:

We need to learn to measure our success based on the reality of this two-way love relationship; I love God and He loves me, and not on our emotions which are ever changing, or our actions which are inconsistent. To lean on either of these causes us to be prideful when we are doing good or to become depressed when we are doing bad; both are wrong approaches and are subtle poisons to the soul. With right perspective we need to set our minds on that which is beneficial so that we may behold Christ.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Co. 3:2-3

B. Weak Movements of Our Heart:

God loves us and has invited us into that love counting even the smallest movements of our hearts to be real and valuable. He sees the motives of your heart, He knows perfectly your desires and He delights in you. He is full of compassion, mercy and grace, He loves perfectly, always forgives and embraces us just where we are.

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave...But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness (Ps. 86:11-15)."

"You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride; you have stolen my heart with one glance of your eyes.

SS. 4:9