

Trusting God's Love

1 John 4:16-18

1 Jn. 1:1-2 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and **proclaim to you the eternal life**, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—

1 Jn. 1:3-4 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may **have fellowship with us**; and indeed our fellowship is with **the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ**.⁴ And we are writing these things so **that our joy may be complete**.

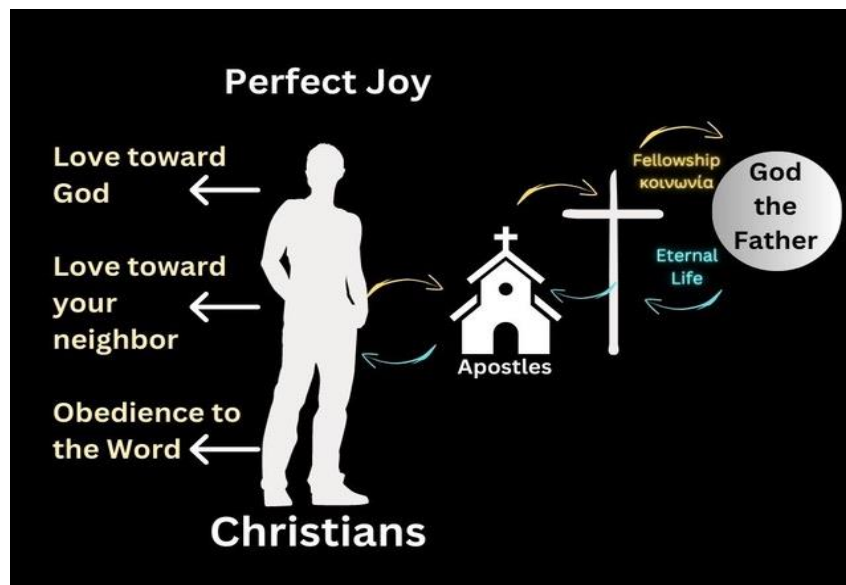
1 Jn. 4:16 **So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us**. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Because of our oneness with Christ which becomes a reality at the moment of salvation, God loves us just as He loves the only begotten Son.

John 17:23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and **loved them even as you loved me**.

- In Jesus Christ, God made you perfect and accepted you like He accepted the only begotten Son.
- In Jesus Christ, God loves you as He loves His only begotten Son.
- In Jesus Christ, God understands you by knowing your heart perfectly.
- In Jesus Christ, God covers and compensates for your shortcomings helping you to overcome them.
- In Jesus Christ, God leads you along the earthly path in real time, looking forward to meeting you.

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Heb. 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,² **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

I. Growth in Trusting God's Love

1 Jn. 4:16 So we **have come to know and to believe** the love that God has for us. God is love, and **whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

Eph. 3:16-19 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,**¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ **and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,** that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Isa. 43:4 Because **you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you,** I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life.

The value of a Christian is measured by the value of the glorious, righteous and blameless Son who gave his life out of love for you and who thereby made you righteous and perfect in Him.

The value of a Christian is determined by the perfection of the Son, the second person of the Godhead, and therefore he or she becomes the object of the love that has eternally existed between the three persons of the Godhead.

Jer. 31:3 the LORD appeared to him from far away. **I have loved you with an everlasting love;** therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Ps 13:5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;

Ps. 52:8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. **I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.**

Ps 143:8 Let me hear in the morning **of your steadfast love,** for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Ps. 16:8-9 I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now **live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me** and gave himself for me.

Phil. 3:7-8 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

II. Expression of Trust in God's Love

1 Jn. 4:16-17 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ **By this is love perfected with us**, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

1 Jn. 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly **the love of God is perfected**. By this we may know that we are in him:

1 Jn. 4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and **his love is perfected in us**.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. **For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

- **It gives us confidence in God by building trust in Him**

1 Jn. 4:16-17 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ **By this is love perfected with us**, so that **we may have confidence** for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

- **It makes us able to obey His Word**

1 Jn. 2:5 but **whoever keeps his word**, in him truly **the love of God is perfected**. By this we may know that we are in him:

- **It makes us capable of loving our neighbors**

1 Jn. 4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and **his love is perfected in us**.

- **It frees us from fear.**

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but **perfect love casts out fear**. For fear has to do with punishment, and **whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

A. Trusting God's love in life's circumstances

1 Jn. 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

1 Pet. 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, **because he cares for you.**

Rom. 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Rom. 8:31-32 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, **how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?**

Rom. 8:38-39 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jer. 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

1 Jn. 2:5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

1 Jn. 5:3-4 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 Jn. 3:1-3 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Jn. 15:9-11 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

To a large extent, all our sins, whatever they may be, are the result of our lack of trust of God's love.

B. Trusting God's love in our relationships with people

ESV **1 John 4:19** We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:9-11 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 Jn. 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

Rom. 12:19-21 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

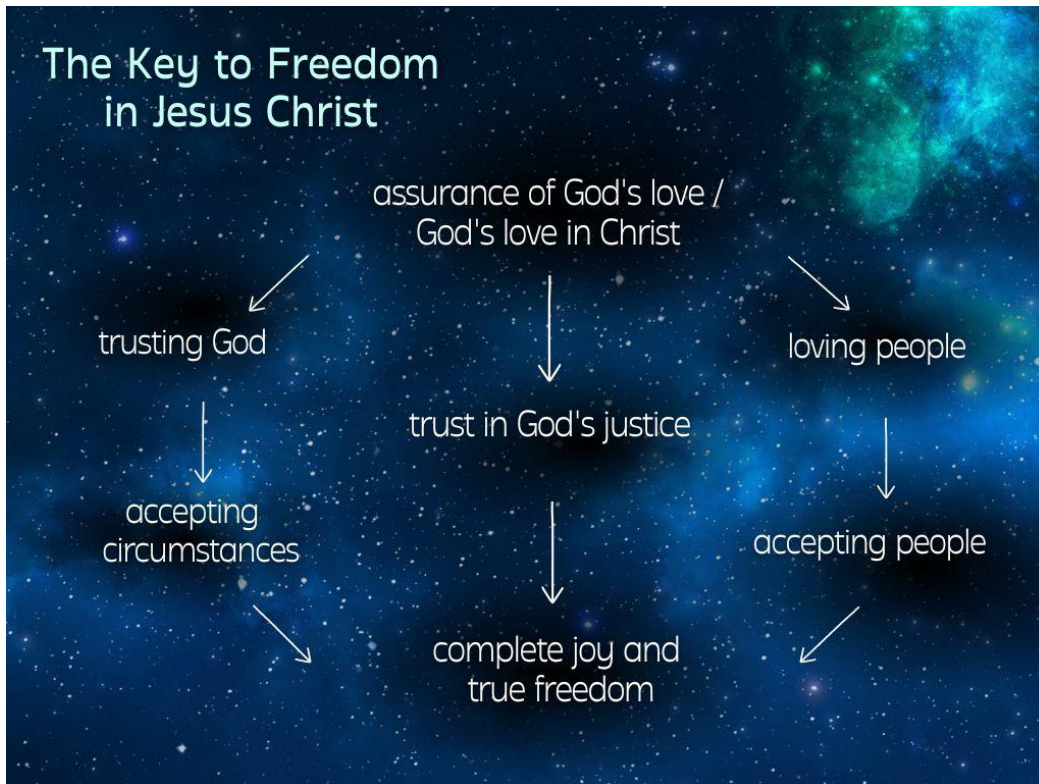
Matthew 5:44-45 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may **be sons of your Father who is in heaven**. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have **passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers**. Whoever does not love abides in death.

1 John 3:16-18 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

1 Jn. 1:1-2 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and **proclaim to you the eternal life**, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—

1 John 1:3-4 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have **fellowship** with us; and indeed our **fellowship** is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ And we are writing these things **so that our joy may be complete**.



- Do you know this abundant joy?
- Do you practice communion with God's Word, with Jesus Christ who died for you, and through Him have fellowship with God the Father?
- Do you know God's boundless love for you in Jesus Christ?
- Are you growing in trusting God's love?