

2025-11-15 Lost and Found (God's Feelings) (originally in 2022)

We have emotions, feelings

& we know we are made in the image of God

So, God has emotions, feelings

When we talk about our relationship with God we mostly talk about

How He makes us feel – joy, peace, accepted, loved, forgiven

But, in a loving relationship you care about the feelings of the other person

You can't really know other person until you know what they are feeling

Your love for them is shallow

Unless you care about what they are feeling

Because the Lord wants you to know Him better

Ruach Ha Kodesh led me to focus today on how **God feels** about things

Because if you love God & don't care about His feelings

Your love for Him is shallow, it needs to be deepened

Bible often describes God's feelings; anger, jealousy

Satisfaction after He completed each day of creation He said; It is good

When you understand He experiences feelings, emotions like you experience

It will help you in your relationship with Him

It's what it means to truly love Him

Also you will trust Him more & trust that He understands

What you are going through

It's especially important to know what God feels

About the things you and I might think, say or do

Which will help us to be conformed to His image, become like Him

Let's look at some Biblical passages that reveal God's feelings, emotions

After being delivered from slavery in Egypt by God doing many miracles

Moses went up on Mt. Sinai to be with God for 40 days

Exodus 32:7 Then Adonai (the LORD) said to Moses, "Go down! For your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have become debased.

8 They quickly turned aside from the path that I commanded for them. They have made a molten calf, worshipped it, and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you up out of the land of Egypt.'"

9 Adonai said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked (stubborn, prideful) people.

10 Now therefore, leave Me alone, so My wrath may burn hot against them, and so I may consume them—and make from you a great nation!”

Israelites were idolatrous attributing God’s miraculous deliverance to gold cows

They were also disobedient, stubborn and prideful

These things caused God to feel wrath, hot wrath, extreme anger

Strong enough for Him to consume, wipe out, execute all the Israelites

At least 3M people & start over with Moses family

That’s pretty strong wrath

Moses interceded in verses 11-13

14 So Adonai relented from the destruction that He said He would do to His people.

Moses intercession caused God to feel other emotions - compassion, mercy

& He had long suffering or patience with the Israelites

Jeremiah 22:17 “But your eyes and your heart are only on your unjust gain, and on shedding innocent blood, and committing extortion and fraud.”

Unjust gain, shedding innocent blood, extortion & fraud

Also arouse great anger in God

Yeshua’s disciples tried to cast demons out of a boy and were unable

Mark 9:25 When Yeshua saw that the crowd was closing in on them, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and dumb spirit! I command you: come out of him, and never go back into him again!"

26 Shrieking and throwing the boy into a violent fit, it came out. The boy lay there like a corpse, so that most of the people said he was dead.

27 But Yeshua took him by the hand and raised him to his feet, and he stood up.

PTL for His great power over these evil spirits

But, just before Yeshua delivered this boy He revealed how He felt

About His disciples **not being able** to cast these demons out

19 "People without any trust (faith)!" he responded. "How long will I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him to me!"

Yeshua felt frustration at His disciples lack of faith, doubt

As He feels when you and I doubt & are without faith

Just before Yeshua’s arrest His enemies were searching for Him

Luke 22:47 While he was still speaking, a crowd of people arrived, with the man called Y'hudah (Judas, one of the Twelve!) leading them. He came up to Yeshua to kiss him,

48 but Yeshua said to him, "Y'hudah, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Can you hear the pain and sadness in His words? Betrayal is always painful
How many of you have suffered betrayal and know that pain?

Bob Hartman of Petra was wondering about God's feelings

When he wrote about this incident in the song Judas' Kiss
I'd love to play the song but because of copyright requirements

I'm going to just read you the lyrics, read all the way through first

Then go back over each line as an outline for the rest of this message

When end the livestream at the end of the service we'll play the song

Word are being spoken to God

*I wonder how it makes **you feel** when the prodigal won't come home*

I wonder how it makes you feel when he'd rather be on his own

I wonder what it's like for you when a lamb has gone astray

I wonder what it's like for you when your children disobey

Those are some of the things people, or you or I do

The song's chorus is how Mr. Hartman understood their effect on the Lord

It must be like another thorn stuck in your brow

It must be like another close friend's broken vow

It must be like another nail right through your wrist

It must be just like, just like Judas' kiss

Then he wonders about some other things we might do

That cause painful feelings to God

I wonder how it makes you feel when no one seeks your face

I wonder how it makes you feel when they give up in the race

I wonder what it's like for you when they willingly disobey

I wonder what it's like for you when they willingly walk away

Let's go back to the beginning & dig in to each line

I wonder how it makes you feel when the prodigal won't come home

I wonder how it makes you feel when he'd rather be on his own

Referring to Yeshua's story of prodigal son

Where the prodigal's loving father represents God

We have all been prodigal sons & daughters at some time

People who had been adopted into God's spiritual family

Who have walked away from Him & won't come home

They'd **rather** be on their own, they don't want to come home

Their separation from God is intentional

Usually because they don't want to give up something ungodly

It has become more important to them than their relationship with God

There are many prodigals in the world, some hearing this right now

I wonder what it's like for you when a lamb has gone astray

Referring to Yeshua who described Himself as the good shepherd

He took the Good Shepherd as one of His names

Meaning it describes who He is

Lambs who have gone astray are different from prodigals who want to be astray

These lambs have wandered away from the Lord

& **want** to come back, but **can't find their way, & so are in danger**

People who have gone astray are like lost lambs to Yeshua

Perhaps there are some lambs who have gone astray hearing this

The Lord wants you to know there is a way back

Just call on Him & He'll show you the way

I wonder what it's like for you when your children disobey

Those of us who are parents can relate to the feelings this produces in God

Most applicable to parents of grown children who are out on their own

Whom we can't disciple like we used to

Feelings produced are frustration, sadness, grief

I'm sure there are many hearing this who have disobeyed God

At some time in their life, or are disobeying God right now

God feels like you feel when your adult children disobey you

Here's what Mr. Hartman saw as the effect of these 3 ways of falling away

Not coming home to Him, preferring to be on your own

Wandering away from the Lord so you are astray

& don't know how to come home

Or of plain old disobedience to God

It must be like another thorn stuck in your brow

Painful, like unimaginable pain of the crown of thorns Yeshua endured

But it's more than that pain, it's **another** thorn, adding to the pain

It must be like another close friend's broken vow

This is another effect of the four ways of falling away

Painful like the pain of Peter breaking his vow to stand with the Lord

How many of you have experienced pain due to a close friend's broken vow?

Marriage vows, friendship commitments, parents' promises

It's also another thing that causes the Lord pain

There may be people hearing this who have vowed to follow & obey God

Who are breaking that vow right now by how they are living

It's painful to the Lord, how painful? Like another thorn in His brow

It must be like another nail right through your wrist

Again unimaginable pain of the nails Yeshua endured

But it's more than that pain, it's **another** nail, adding to the pain

It must be just like, just like Judas' kiss

Judas led the religious leaders to Yeshua to arrest Him

& he identified Him for them by kissing Yeshua

Luke 22:48 but Yeshua said to him, "Y'hudah, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Can you grasp the pain of Judas using a kiss, a means of showing affection

To betray the Lord, a friend, a mentor

I wonder how it makes you feel when no one seeks your face

Who among us has not had a time when you should have sought His face

For direction, forgiveness, discernment, wisdom but you didn't?

Back to the chorus to describe how these make God feel

Thorns, nails, kiss of death

I wonder how it makes you feel when they give up in the race

This is one you might not have realized is painful to God

If circumstances become difficult & you give up doing

What He has called you to do, you've given up in to the race

& that is painful to God

I wonder what it's like for you when they willingly disobey

In Hebrew pesha – intentional violations of God's law

I know it's against Your will but I'm going to do it or not do it anyway

I wonder what it's like for you when they willingly walk away

I know I should spend more time with You

But I've got things to do that I think are more important

What things make God sad? Prodigals, those who go astray

Disobedience of His children, promise breaking, betrayal, giving up

Focus on another thing that makes God sad - loss

How many have experienced the loss of something valuable, piece of jewelry
 How many have experienced the loss of a beloved pet?

We understand that we will lose pets when their time is over

But, their death can be painful especially if they are not old

Or if it happens through an accident

Then there's the loss of a beloved person, the worst loss

Out of envy Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery

Genesis 37:31 So they took Joseph's tunic, slaughtered a billy goat, and they dipped the tunic into the blood.

32 Then they sent the long-sleeved tunic, and it was brought to their father, and they said, "We found this. Do you recognize whether or not it is your son's tunic?"

33 He did recognize it and said, "My son's tunic! An evil animal has devoured him! Joseph must be torn to pieces!"

*34 Jacob tore his clothing and put on sackcloth and mourned for his son **many** days.*

35 All his sons got up along with all his daughters to console him, but he refused to be comforted. He said, "For I will go down to Sheol (the place of the dead) to my son, mourning." So his father kept weeping for him.

The loss of a person causes great grief

Some of us may be experiencing that painful kind of grief right now

How does the loss of a person effect God? How does that make Him feel?

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in that the Messiah died on our behalf while we were still sinners.

So God loves people who are sinners

That means He loves all human beings whom He created

He created us to have fellowship with Him

What happens when people die who have not trusted in Yeshua's sacrifice
 & entered into a personal relationship with God?

They go to hell & there are no more chances for them to repent

So they are **lost to God** forever, He no longer has fellowship with them

Since He loves every one of them He must grieve over every one

Like Israel grieved over his son Joseph

Need to look at the other side of God's feelings, so we don't leave depressed

What makes God happy, joyful?

The opposite of loss finding a valuable thing makes God happy
Yeshua talked about the Kingdom of God being like a woman who found

A valuable coin, a drachma, worth a day's wages, \$120, that had been lost
Luke 15:9 And when she does find it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Come, celebrate with me, because I have found the drachma I lost.'

Finding that coin made her so joyful she threw a party

Then Yeshua adds a Kingdom of God application

10 In the same way, I tell you, there is joy among God's angels when one sinner repents."

If God's angels are rejoicing, it's because God is rejoicing too

Finding a beloved pet can be a greater joy than finding a valuable object

A few years ago when we finished packing to go to a cottage rented on vacation

We couldn't find one of our cats whom we were bringing along

We had to meet the landlord at a certain time at the cottage

So we had to leave the lost cat behind at home

After arriving & unpacking I had to drive over an hour back home to find the cat

When I found him I rejoiced greatly

In Bible times sheep were like pets to their shepherds, they loved them

Luke 15:4 "If one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, doesn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?

5 When he does find it, he joyfully hoists it onto his shoulders;

6 and when he gets home, he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Come, celebrate with me, because I have found my lost sheep!'

Because the shepherd loved that lost sheep

Finding the lost sheep brought him great joy

& Yeshua adds another Kingdom of God application

7 I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who turns to God from his sins than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent.

How about what happens when a lost child is found?

Many years after Israel's sons told him Joseph was dead

Genesis 45:26 They told him saying, "Joseph is still alive and he is ruler of the whole land of Egypt!" His heart went numb, for he did not believe them.

Israel's heart was numb, it couldn't even beat, this was such monumental news
27 But they told him all of Joseph's words that he had told them. When he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to pick him up, the spirit of their father Jacob (Israel) revived.

28 Then Israel said, "Enough! My son Joseph is still alive. I must go and see him, before I die."

So Israel believed the news & set out for Egypt to re-unite with Joseph

29 Joseph harnessed his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel. As soon as he appeared before him, he fell upon his neck, and wept on his neck for some time.

Weeping on his neck for some time, an outpouring of emotion, great joy

30 Then Israel said to Joseph, "At this time I am ready to die, after seeing your face in person—for you're still alive!"

Now Israel was ready to die because his life, which had been incomplete

Without Joseph, was now completed with their reunion

Ruach Ha Kodesh wants to apply this understanding of the joy of finding a lost child

To each of you in a personal way

Psalms 139:13...You knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise You, for I am awesomely, wonderfully made! Wonderful are Your works—and my soul knows that very well.

God knew you & all human beings from when you were conceived

& He loves them all with His limitless love while they are in the womb

What happens after that? You are born & God knows you & loves you

As an innocent infant, toddler & child

In your innocent years He has a relationship with you

When you reach the age of accountability

Knowing your right hand from your left hand

Meaning knowing right from wrong

In God's eyes you become responsible for your behavior

Some, including most of us hearing this choose to turn away from God

Sin & transgress against God's laws, we entertain iniquity

Isaiah 59:2 Rather, your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God. Your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.

So God loses His relationship with those who turn away

No matter what age you are, if you turned away you became a lost child
 Like Joseph was to his father Israel, like prodigal was to his father
 Like a lost sheep is to the Good Shepherd

When you turned back to Him you were found

Luke 15:7 I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who turns to God from his sins than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent.

God had great joy in finding you, He threw a party, rejoicing in heaven

But, this doesn't just happen just once in a lifetime when you are first saved

It happens whenever you realize you've sinned & repent

You are like the one sinner among the 99 righteous

Who turns to God from His sins

That starts another party in heaven & God & all angels experience great joy

Your humbling yourself & repenting brings great joy to God

Does God experience the emotion of joy?

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life. Abundance of joys are in Your presence, eternal pleasures at Your right hand.

If there are abundance of joys in God's presence it means He experiences joy

Amazingly joy was instrumental in giving Yeshua strength to die on the cross

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of

our faith; who for the joy that was

set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

There's a little known secret that the Bible also teaches

When you bring great joy to God you will experience a very positive effect

On RH all the exiles who had returned from exile in Babylon

Gathered together in Jerusalem & the Levites read the Torah to them

Nehemiah 8:8 They read from the Torah scroll of God, distinctly explaining it and giving insight. Thus they understood what was read.

When they understood God's laws there was a strong reaction to them

9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the Kohen - scribe, and the Levites who were teaching the people said to all the people, "Today is kadosh (holy, set apart) to Adonai your God. Do not mourn or weep!" For all the people had been weeping when they heard the words of the Torah.

Why were they mourning & weeping? Was it for joy? No

They were weeping because they understood for the first time that
 They had not been obeying God's Laws, certainly not while living in exile
 But also since they returned to Jerusalem
 & they knew they deserved His judgment
 They were weeping in fear of God & in repentance
 But the leaders said don't weep because today is holy (set apart) to the Lord
 What made the day holy to the Lord?
 The people fearing God & repenting with mourning & weeping
 Of how they had not been obeying His Laws
10 So he said to them, "Go! Eat choice food, drink sweet drinks, and send portions to those who have nothing ready. For today is kadosh (set apart) to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of Adonai is your strength."
 Throw a party, celebrate because all the people are repenting
 This was true revival, t'shuvah, turning back to God
 In the last phrase is the little known promise I mentioned earlier
 This last phrase are also the words in Bible most often taken out of context
 "For the joy of the Lord is your strength"
 Often when a person is struggling friends will console them with this phrase
 Or they'll recite this phrase meaning they have Lord's joy in them
 Because joy is one of the fruits of Ruach Ha Kodesh
 And that joy is their strength, God's joy in them strengthens them
 Which is true and good
 But what does it actually mean in context?
11 Then the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Hush! For today is kadosh. Do not grieve."
12 So all the people departed to eat and drink, to send portions and to celebrate with great joy, because they came to understand the words that were explained to them.
 The people heard God's Word, realized they had not been obeying it & repented
 Their contrite hearts gave God great joy because they understood
 Feared Him & repented
 He had great joy because this was the essence of revival
 The hidden promise, in context, is when God has great joy in what you're doing
 Specifically, in this case repenting of your sin
 His joy is great because you are like one sinner who repents

Among 99 righteous people

You are the prodigal returned to the father

The lost sheep found by the Good Shepherd

10 So he said to them, "Go! Eat choice food, drink sweet drinks, and send portions to those who have nothing ready. For today is kadosh (set apart) to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of Adonai (the LORD) is your strength."

& God's little known secret promise in verse 10 is that His joy

Over your contrite heart & repentance will strengthen you

We also learn from many verses in Bible that God

Experiences the positive emotion of compassion

Funeral prayer El Maleh Rachamim- God full of Compassion

Starts with O Lord Who is full of compassion

Prayer

Thank you for revealing to us that You have feelings, emotions

It helps us to know that you suffer from painful emotions like we do

That the things that cause us emotional pain hurt You too

I'm going to pray a prayer of repentance for the things we covered

Please pray along if you have fallen into any of these

We repent of the things we've thought, said or done that have caused You pain

We are horrified to think that we have caused You, our Savior pain

Pain like the thorns in Your brow, the nails in Your wrist

Pain like Peter breaking his vow, pain like Judas' kiss

We repent of disobedience, idolatry, stubbornness and pride

Seeking unjust gain, shedding innocent blood, extortion and fraud

Lack of trust or faith in You, preferring to be on our own, going astray

Betrayal of You or others, breaking vows or promises to you or others

Not seeking Your face, giving up in the race

Thank you that You knew everyone of us when we were conceived

We repent of the things we thought, said or did that separated us from You

That caused us to be lost, separated from You

We repent of the pain of grief we caused You when we were lost

We are so thankful that by receiving Your atoning sacrifice & making You Lord

You made a way for us to be found

We think **we** found You, but really **You** found us

Thank You that You are full of compassion

Help us to believe that when each of us was found You had great joy
You threw a party in heaven & all the angels celebrated with you

Give us contrite hearts so we will be quick to repent
& bring You joy all the rest of the days of our lives

Thank you for revealing Your secret promise that our repenting brings you joy
& that Your joy gives us the strength to defeat satan

This is confirmed by

James 4:6 But the grace he gives is greater, which is why it says, "God opposes the arrogant, but to the humble he gives grace."

7 Therefore, submit to God. Moreover, take a stand against the Adversary, and he will flee from you.

Submit to God means to humble yourself in repentance

That will bring joy to the Lord & the joy of the Lord will be your strength

That's why satan will flee from you

That's why whenever we pray for deliverance from a satanic spirit

We first repent of the times we've given in to that spirit

That will bring God joy & His promise is that you will have strength

So satan will flee from you