

Session 10 Experiencing the Joy of the Father

I. THE NEED FOR THE REVELATION OF THE FATHER

⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. Jn 15:9

- A. A theological premise of the forerunner ministry is focused on the Spirit’s emphasis on the end-time revelation of the Father. There is great need for understanding God the Father.

⁶And he (Elijah) will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse. Mal 4:5–6

- B. One of Jesus’ primary aims in Jn. 13-17 is to equip His disciples to grow in the knowledge of the Father by confidently engaging with as well as receiving His Person and leadership. Growing in our understanding of the glory of the Father is essential to our faith. Jesus’ revelation of the Father is His primary strategy to equip the church in the 1st commandment.

²⁶And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them. Jn 17:26

- C. The understanding of the Father was climatic in the mind of Paul’s apostolic ministry and foremost on Jesus’ mind both in His relationship with God and His messianic mission.

²⁸“Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God (the Father) may be all in all.” 1 Co 15:28

- D. **John 13:1; 16:16, 28; 17:5**-He went to the Father; **13:3**-the Father loves gives all to the Son; **14:2, 6**-Jesus prepares access to the Father; **14:7-9**-knowing Jesus is knowing the Father; **14:12**-we do the Father’s work as Jesus did; **14:13; 15:16; 16:23, 26**-we approach the Father directly; **14:16, 26; 15:26**-the Father gives us the Spirit; **14:10-11, 20; 16:32**-Jesus is in union with the Father, His work and His words; **14:21, 23 -24**-the love of the Father is with those who love the Son; **14:31**-Jesus loves His Father; **15:1**-the Father as vinedresser; **15:8**-the Father is glorified in our fruit bearing; **15:9-10**-we are to interact with the Father’s love for His Son; **15:15; 16:15, 25**-Jesus made all the Father declared to Him; **15:23-24**-to hate the Son is to hate the Father; **16:27**-the Father loves us; **17:1**-Jesus glorifies the Father; **17:11, 21, 24**-the name of the Father’s keeps us; **17:25**-the Father is eternally known by the Son

- E. Jesus’ primary ministry aim is to equip believers to grow in the knowledge of the Father, teaching about His desire for His people, displaying His power and proclaiming His purpose. Understanding the glory of the Father is essential to our faith, love and maturity. Jesus’ revelation of the Father is His primary strategy to equip the church in the 1st commandment.

- F. The Law, Prophets and Psalms show us God’s fatherly attributes, yet, knowing God as Father and our privilege of direct access to Him was not known until the Son made Him known.

²¹“...Father, ... You have hidden ... and revealed them to babes. ... Father, ... ²²All things (pertaining the Father’s heart, ways and plans) have been delivered to Me ..., and no one knows...the Father is except the Son, and...whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” Lk 10:21–22

II. THE JOY OF ENTERING THE FATHER'S ENJOYMENT OF HIS SON JESUS

¹⁷And suddenly a voice... "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Mt 3:17

- A. In Exodus 6 & 19 God openly reveals Himself after 400 years and gives new insight concerning Himself to Israel (Ex. 6:2; Jer. 2:2) and it begins a new era in the plan of redemption. Jesus' baptism occurs after another period where there was no new revelation—the silent years.
- B. God openly reveals that He was eternally a loving, pleasure-filled Father delighting in a Son. The Father speaks audibly to Israel and establishes the primary thing He wants us to know about Him as well inviting us to enter into the fellowship between Himself and His Son. The command to abide (Jn. 15:9) assumes Mt. 3:17 as the cornerstone of our interaction with the Father. The key to joy is by regularly engaging with the Father's enjoyment of the Son of God.
- C. Father is the God of infinite pleasure who eternally loves His Son. In Mt. 3:17 God thunders from heaven the greatest secret of God's own eternal history, that there is an ongoing forever partnership in which God was and is forever mutually in the joyful and loving embrace of God.

⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, ... 1 Co 1:9

- D. In Jn 15:9, Jesus commands us to abide in His love, which is the deep wholehearted interaction between Father and Son. It is the ultimate destination of our calling to know the full treasure chest of God's grace, which is by the Holy Spirit to discover things important to the God.

¹⁰But God (the Father) has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God (the Father) ... ¹²Now we have received ... the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 1 Co 2:10, 12

- E. The primary fruit God the Father is cultivating in us is the fruit of true community consistent with His standard, commitment and quality that exists in the Godhead. We are called to participate in the relationship and work of the Father and Son and do so with fellow believers.

³...that you...may have fellowship with us; and...our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴... we write to you that your joy may be full. 1 Jn 1:3–4

¹²This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you (fruit) Jn 15:12

²Let him kiss me with the kisses of his (abide in His word) mouth— For your love is better than wine. ³Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, Your name is ointment poured forth ...⁴Draw (intimacy) me away! We (partnership) will run after you. Song 1:4

- F. The interaction between the Father and the Son is a central component of the born-again experience that we have been called into as we cultivate our relationship with God. It is the Father's desire to speak to us about the love and delight He has for His Son. It is the beginning of the apostolic mystery revealed. As we study, meditate and experience the Father's love for His Son, we grow to understand Jesus' love for us (Jn 15:9), the Father's love for us (Jn 17:23) and the nature of the love with which we are called to love the Son of God – Jesus (Jn 17:26).

III. ENGAGED WITH THE FATHER'S DELIGHT OF HIS SON

- A. "Part of God's fullness which he communicates, is his *happiness*. This happiness consists in enjoying and rejoicing in himself..." Jonathan Edwards
- B. King David was known as a man after God's own heart. This refers to him being a man who searched out the things near to God's holy heart, including God's holy emotions. David had more insight into the emotions of God as the God of gladness, delight and holy pleasure.
⁸They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house (Father's House, Jn 14:2, 23), And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. Ps 36:8
¹¹You will show me the path of life; In Your presence (the Father's presence) is fullness of joy; at Your right hand (Father's right hand) are pleasures forevermore. Ps 16:11
- C. John's ministry ends with the declaration to behold Jesus and the Father's audible announcement of delight in His Son. Forerunners call us to turn to the God of delight. It is incredible that one so powerful is so eternally glad, happy and filled with delight. He is safe.
- D. The Mt. 3:17 announcement of the Father at Jesus' baptism points us back to the prophecy of Isaiah 42 that calls us to set the gaze of our heart on the Father's delight in His Son. Jesus is the Son of His love (*Gen 22:2*), His only begotten (*Ps 2:7*), the Son of His delight (*Isa.42:1*)
"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! Isa 42:1
- E. The gospel is a message of a God with infinite joy and delight for God as well as for His people. This is particularly a truth we must grow in during the days of immaturity to lay a proper foundation for Christian maturity which is manifestly rooted in His joy becoming ours.
¹¹"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. Jn 15:11
- F. Jesus, who is eternally in the bosom of the Father (Jn 1:18), came to make Him known and continues to make known the most beautiful, delightful and enjoyable Person – Prov 8:30-31.
- G. "Jesus invites us to spend eternity with a happy God when he says, 'Enter into the joy of your master' (Matthew 25:23). Jesus lived and died that his joy, God's joy might be in us and our joy might be full (Jn 15:11; 17:13)." *J. Piper, The Pleasures of God – God's delight in being God.*
- H. Daniel 7 and Revelation 4-5 are two key heavenly scenes that connect us with the fellowship between the Father and the Son. God's grace is to empower us to lift our eyes and lock in with the conversation between the Father and the Son. The eschatological crisis necessitates a response that elevates our thinking and perspective to the conversation around the throne (Prov 8:30-31; Ps 2:6-7; 45:6-7; 89:25-27; 110:1; Isa 49:1-7; Dn 7:13; Ez 1:26-28; Zch 13:7).
- I. The Father loved Jesus before the foundation of the world (Jn 17:24). There are statements in the gospels that give us insight into the nature of the Father's love for His Son. It is important we search out and mediate on these statements (Jn 3:35; 5:20; 10:17; 15:9; 17:10, 23, 24, 26).