

Ladies Bible Study
All Things for Good
Chapter Six Part 2
Lesson Nine

Chapter 6 Part 2 Pages 104-109

Outline of today's lesson:

- What shall we do to love God?
- Signs our love for God is growing cold
- A call to increase in our love to God

Lesson nine:

What shall we do to love God?

1. Study God.
 - a. The more we know God the more we ought to love Him.
 - i. Genesis 1:1
 1. Eternal – In the beginning, God created
 2. God is the creator of all things
 3. God is infinite
 4. Independent/self-existent
 - ii. Who is the main subject of Genesis 1?
 - iii. How do you know?
 - iv. What does this reality teach us about the Bible as a whole?
 2. Believe God.

- a. “The more we believe, the more we love: faith is the root, and love is the flower that grows upon it” (104).
- b. The more you believe what God says about who He is and what He has done for you the more you will love Him.

3. Ask God.

- a. “Make it your earnest request to God, that He will give you a heart to love Him” (104).
- b. Ask God to cause you to love Him as you ought.

Signs our love for God is growing cold

1. Losing your taste

- a. 1 Pet. 2:3 – When tasting the Lord in His word is not sweet to us it is a sign our love for God is growing cold.

2. Losing your appetite

- a. It is not only that the sweetness of the Lord in His word is absent to your taste, but your appetite for Him is gone.

3. Replacing your appetite for God with the world

- a. When our language, thoughts, desire are only ever on this world we have replaced the former appetite for God with an appetite for the world.

4. When you make little of worship

- a. When corporate worship on the Lord’s Day is taken lightly it is evidence that your love for God is growing cold. Worship on the Lord’s Day should be the highlight of our week.

This love is needed for the Christian as much as a weapon is for a soldier or an instrument is for a musician.

“Love influences the graces, it excites the affections, it makes us grieve for sin, it makes us cheerful in God; it is like oil to the wheels; it quickens us in God's service. How careful then should we be to keep alive our love for God!

Question. How may we keep our love from going out?

Answer. Watch your hearts **every day**. Take notice of the **first** declinings in grace. Observe yourselves when you begin to grow dull and listless, and use all means for quickening. Be much in prayer, meditation, and holy conference. When the fire is going out you throw on fuel: so when the flame of your love is going out, make use of ordinances and gospel promises, as fuel to keep the fire of your love burning.” (107).

A call to increase in our love to God

Phil. 1:9 – “He who has a little gold, would have more; you who love God a little, labor to love Him more” (108).

1. When love increases it proves that its truth.
2. When love increases it resembles saints in the Bible.
3. When love increases it amplifies the reward. “The more we burn in love—the more we shall shine in glory! The higher our love —the brighter our crown!” (109)

Conclusion:

“If our love to God does not increase—it will soon decrease. If the fire is not blown up—it will quickly go out. Therefore Christians should above all things endeavor to cherish and excite their love to God. This exhortation will be out of date when we come to heaven, for then our light shall be clear, and our love perfect; but now it is in season to exhort, that our love to God may abound yet more and more” (109).

“Then I saw in my dream that the Interpreter took Christian by the hand, and led him into a place where was a fire burning against a wall, and one standing by it, always casting much water upon it, to quench it; yet did the fire burn higher and hotter.

Then said Christian, What means this?

The Interpreter answered, This fire is the work of grace that is wrought in the heart; he that casts water upon it, to extinguish and put it out, is the Devil; but in that thou seest the fire notwithstanding burn higher and hotter, thou shalt also see the reason of that. So he had him about to the backside of the wall, where he saw a man with a vessel of oil in his hand, of the which He did also continually cast, but secretly, into the fire.

Then said Christian, What means this?

The Interpreter answered, This is Christ, who continually, with the oil of his grace, maintains the work already begun in the heart: by the means of which, notwithstanding what the devil can do, the souls of His people prove gracious still. And in that thou sawest that the man stood behind the wall to maintain the fire, that is to teach thee that it is hard for the tempted to see how this work of grace is maintained in the soul” (Pilgrim’s Progress

