

Perfecting by Love: God the Rewarder

God releases His rewards to those who are faithful and passionate to pursue Him.

Review:

Perfecting By Love: Freedom from Torment

God is perfect and God is love. He desires that we also be perfect, but we must first be perfecting by His love.

- Wherever we are not clothed by His righteousness.
- Where fear and shame exists.
- Where we have covered ourselves with our religion.
- Wherever there is weakness and no power over sin and Satan.
- Wherever there is hate and not love for God, self, and others.
- Wherever there isn't a superiority over the flesh by your new spirit.
- Wherever there isn't the mind of Christ.
- Wherever there is torment.

Last week we learned the first part of the Love Cycle which is God's love for us. The second part of the Love Cycle is loving God back.

A Worthy Sacrifice

Genesis 4:1-7

New Living Translation

Cain and Abel

4 Now Adam[a] had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, "With the Lord's help, I have produced[b] a man!" 2 Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. 3 When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The

Lord accepted Abel and his gift, 5 but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

6 “Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? 7 You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

- At the time of harvest gifts were presented.
- Cain brought vegetation/leaves. Where had God seen leaves before? A sacrifice that cost you nothing will never please God because there's no faith attached. The Lord rejected his gift.
- Abel also brought a gift, the best portions of the firstborn lambs of His flock. The Lord accepted it! When God covered their parents nakedness He sacrificed an animal to do it. This would also point to the future sacrifice of His Son for our sins.

Hebrews 11:4

New Living Translation

4 It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.

Rocks vs. Hearts

My first vision: In the desert laying on my back...

Isaiah 1:10-20

New Living Translation

10 Listen to the Lord, you leaders of “Sodom.”

Listen to the law of our God, people of “Gomorrah.”

11 “What makes you think I want all your sacrifices?” says the Lord.

“I am sick of your burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of fattened cattle.

I get no pleasure from the blood
of bulls and lambs and goats.

12 When you come to worship me,
who asked you to parade through my courts with all your ceremony?

13 Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts;
the incense of your offerings disgusts me!
As for your celebrations of the new moon and the Sabbath
and your special days for fasting—
they are all sinful and false.
I want no more of your pious meetings.

14 I hate your new moon celebrations and your annual festivals.
They are a burden to me. I cannot stand them!

15 When you lift up your hands in prayer, I will not look.
Though you offer many prayers, I will not listen,
for your hands are covered with the blood of innocent victims.

16 Wash yourselves and be clean!
Get your sins out of my sight.
Give up your evil ways.

17 Learn to do good.
Seek justice.
Help the oppressed.
Defend the cause of orphans.
Fight for the rights of widows.

18 “Come now, let’s settle this,”
says the Lord.
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
I will make them as white as snow.
Though they are red like crimson,
I will make them as white as wool.

19 If you will only obey me, (willing and obedient)
you will have plenty to eat. (eat the good of the land)

20 But if you turn away and refuse to listen,
you will be devoured by the sword of your enemies.
I, the Lord, have spoken!”

- Psalm 84:11 New Living Translation

11 For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.

Faith's Rewards

Hebrews 11:1

New Living Translation

11 Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

- Faith is the gift of supernatural hope that believes God will perform His word, absent of any visible proof or evidence.

Hebrews 11:6

New Living Translation

6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

- There's nothing we can ever do to make God love us more, however we can please Him and gain favor and rewards.
- Two things must be present as we seek God.
 1. We must believe He exists.
 2. He rewards His seekers/ those who love Him.

Going From Woo To Wow!

Woo Definition - to try to gain the love, favor, support, of another especially with a desire to marry.

Wow Definition - expressing astonishment or admiration, a sensational success, to impress and excite someone greatly.

Where there is no wooing of God, there is no wow from God.

How do we Woo God?

- By displaying to Him how much He's worth to us through our obedience and offerings.
- W- Worth/ O- Obedience/ O-Offering

The Lord told me to move to Lima, pit, prison, palace.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

New Living Translation

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 7 You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." [a]

- Very few woovers are found when it comes to giving up time and money.
- People would rather woo with words because it cost them nothing.

Matthew 15:8

New Living Translation

8 'These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

Jesus's Woo, God's Wow!

Philippians 2:5-11

New Living Translation

5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

6 Though he was God, [a]
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges [b];
he took the humble position of a slave [c]
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form, [d]

8 he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

9 Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Solomon's Woo, God's Wow

1 Kings 3:3-14

New Living Translation

3 Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local places of worship. 4 The most important of these places of worship was at Gibeon, so the king went there and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings. 5 That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

6 Solomon replied, "You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.

7 "Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. 8 And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! 9 Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. 11 So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— 12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! 13 And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! 14 And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life."

When God Testifies

Job 1:8

New Living Translation

8 Then the Lord asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.”

Mark 12:41-44

New Living Translation

41 Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. 42 Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.[a]

43 Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. 44 For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”

Matthew 26:6-13

New Living Translation

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

6 Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. 7 While he was eating,[a] a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it over his head.

8 The disciples were indignant when they saw this. “What a waste!” they said. 9 “It could have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.”

10 But Jesus, aware of this, replied, “Why criticize this woman for doing such a good thing to me? 11 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me. 12 She has poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for burial. 13 I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman’s deed will be remembered and discussed.”

Our Greatest Sacrifice

Romans 12:1

New Living Translation

A Living Sacrifice to God

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b]