

Abundant Life: The Love Cycle

Loving God (Living in Love)

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This message was birthed from a question I asked the Lord. I told Him that I knew how to get more faith, but if I wanted to grow my love for Him I wasn't sure how?

Romans 10:17 Amplified Bible

17 So faith comes from hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the [preaching of the] message concerning Christ.

- The more you hear about God, the more your faith grows.
- More God = More Faith

To Know Him is to Love Him

John 10:10 New King James Version

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 1:1-4 New King James Version

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

- His life lights the way for us to receive love, identity, faith, and eternal purpose. His life lights up the truth that leads to salvation.

- There have been a few car fires reported recently and He reminded me of my own. My car caught on fire while I was inside. Then He reminded me that the doors and windows still worked, although it was an electrical fire.

Psalm 27:1 New Living Translation

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?

Who is He?

1 John 1 New Living Translation

1 We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning,[a] whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. 2 This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.[b]

Living in the Light

5 This is the message we heard from Jesus[c] and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

How Can We Know Him?

1 John 2:1-17 New Living Translation

2 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. 2 He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. 3 And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.

- How can we be sure that we know Him and are known by Him?
- Who did He say I never knew you to?
- Matthew 7:21-23 New Living Translation
21 “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ 23 But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

4 If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. 5 But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.

- Obeying God’s word is the way to show how completely we love Him!

6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

7 Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. 8 Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining. 9 If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer,[a] that person is still living in darkness. 10 Anyone who loves a fellow believer[b] is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

Who is this message for?

12 I am writing to you who are God's children

because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.[c]

13 I am writing to you who are mature in the faith[d]

because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.

I am writing to you who are young in the faith

because you have won your battle with the evil one.

14 I have written to you who are God's children

because you know the Father.

I have written to you who are mature in the faith

because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.

I have written to you who are young in the faith

because you are strong.

God's word lives in your hearts,

and you have won your battle with the evil one.

- If we're going to know how to love God and be known by Him, we should also know the opposite.

Do Not Love This World

15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

- This information should break our hearts, especially as we see signs of the love of the world in them.

16 For the world offers only a craving (lust of the flesh, eyes) for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

1 John 4:7-20 New Living Translation

7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God.

Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- There's the answer to the question of how do we obtain more love. It's by knowing God, because God is love.
- More God = More Love

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

- Romans 5:5 New Living Translation
5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.
- More God = More Love

12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. 13 And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. 14 Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

- To love God more we must live in His love by walking in His light and obeying the Light's commands.
- When we live in God, who is love, we have love cycle completed in us. As we have love from Him, love for Him, love for self, and for others.

17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. 18 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have

not fully experienced his perfect love. 19 We love each other[a] because he loved us first. 20 If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer,[b] that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?

How Do We Get More of God to Increase Our Love?

John 3:30 New King James Version

30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

- Less Self = More God = More Love

Matthew 16:24-25 New Living Translation

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

2 Peter 1:2-3

New Living Translation

2 May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

Growing in Faith

3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.