

Perfectured By Love: Freedom from Torment

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

The Foundations of Love

Who is God?

Genesis 1:1 New Living Translation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.[a]

John 4:24 New Living Translation

24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

Luke 3:21-22 New Living Translation

21 One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.[a]"

1 John 4:8 New Living Translation

8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Why did He contact us?

Genesis 1:26 New Living Translation

26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings[a] in our image, to be like us.

How do we contact Him?

Jeremiah 29:12-13 New Living Translation

12 In those days when you pray, I will listen. 13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

What is love?

John 15:13-14 New Living Translation

13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

Why does He love us?

Luke 11:11-13 New Living Translation

11 "You fathers—if your children ask[a] for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

Why would we love Him?

1 John 4:9-10 New Living Translation

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.

How do we love Him?

John 14:15 New Living Translation

15 "If you love me, obey[a] my commandments.

Our Need to Be Perfected

Revelation 2:4 New Living Translation

4 "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first![a]

2 Timothy 3:1-2

New Living Translation

3 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.

Matthew 19:16-26

New Living Translation

The Rich Man

16 Someone came to Jesus with this question: “Teacher,[a] what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”

17 “Why ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep[b] the commandments.”

18 “Which ones?” the man asked.

And Jesus replied: “You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. 19 Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.’[c]”

20 “I’ve obeyed all these commandments,” the young man replied. “What else must I do?”

21 Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. 24 I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

25 The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked.

26 Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

Where do we need perfected

Genesis 3:6-10

New Living Translation

6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. 7 At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

8 When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man[a] and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

- 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.

Torment definition: 1. Extreme pain; anguish; the utmost degree of misery, either of body or mind.

Psalm 51:2-4

New Living Translation

2 Wash me clean from my guilt.

Purify me from my sin.

3 For I recognize my rebellion;
it haunts me day and night.
4 Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.
You will be proved right in what you say,
and your judgment against me is just.[a]

- What happens when you don't cast your cares on him? Torments

1 John 4:18

Amplified Bible

18 There is no fear in love [dread does not exist]. But perfect (complete, full-grown) love drives out fear, because fear involves [the expectation of divine] punishment, so the one who is afraid [of God's judgment] is not perfected in love [has not grown into a sufficient understanding of God's love].

- Fear to be loved by God because He sees and knows all.
- Fear to love God like He asks because we might lose our desires.
- Fear to love our spiritual lives because we must deny our natural/carnal lives.
- Fear of loving others because of selfishness, rejection, co-dependency, getting what they don't deserve.

Judges 16:4-6

New Living Translation

Samson and Delilah

4 Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek. 5 The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "Entice Samson to tell you what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered and tied up securely. Then each of us will give you 1,100 pieces[a] of silver."

6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me what makes you so strong and what it would take to tie you up securely."

Judges 16:15-22

New Living Translation

15 Then Delilah pouted, "How can you tell me, 'I love you,' when you don't share your secrets with me? You've made fun of me three times now, and you still haven't told me what makes you so strong!" 16 She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it.

17 Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. "My hair has never been cut," he confessed, "for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else."

18 Delilah realized he had finally told her the truth, so she sent for the Philistine rulers. "Come back one more time," she said, "for he has finally told me his secret." So the Philistine rulers returned with the money in their hands. 19 Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down,^[a] and his strength left him.

20 Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!"

When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." But he didn't realize the Lord had left him.

21 So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison.

- The enemy took his vision, freedom, and purpose.
- What is the objective of the tormentor? To steal our love from God to give it to another, so He can steal our vision, freedom and purpose.
- If Adam and Eve would have had perfect love there would've been no fear of God having held back anything, they wouldn't have taken their eyes off him, and their hearts off of what He said.
- The enemy goes after your eyes/lust, flesh/ awakens carnal desires, heart/pride of life.

22 But before long, his hair began to grow back.

- But his hair began to grow back and in his final act He devoted his heart to God by sacrificing himself and destroying God's enemies.

Romans 5:8 New Living Translation

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

How can we ever come to perfection in God's love for us, in our love for God, in our love for others?

Philippians 4:13

New Living Translation

13 For I can do everything through Christ,[a] who gives me strength.