

THE POWER AND IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD LOVES YOU

[Whangarei Assembly of God - 15/3/92 – EKB]

1. The Holy Spirit is emphasising this truth now.
2. Believers need to know that God loves them and cares for them. *1Pet 5:7, 1Jn 4:9,10,16, 1Jn 3:1, Jn 17:23.*
3. **The alternative to knowing that God loves you is fear, 2Tim 1:7.**
1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love (God's love) casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect (or complete) in love.
4. The first result of sin is fear, *Gen 3:8,10*. **All fear is fear of not being loved** - fear that something is going to happen to me that will not be an expression of love.
5. **God's love is that He is always with me, and He will actively intervene in my situation for my highest good** and best interests. God's love will get through to me as I hold faith in His Word and Promises. *Rom 8:35,39, Rom 8:28, Is 41:10, Is 43:1-3, Ps 23:4, Deut 31:6,8, Deut 2:7, Josh 1:9, Rom 8:15, 2Tim 1:7, Ex 33:14, Jn 10:27-30, Gen 15:1, Ex 14:13-15, 2Pet 1:3,4, Jn 3:16,17.*
6. Before entering full-time ministry, while I was reading *Ruth 2:3*, God came to me and showed me how much He loved me, and how precious and valuable I was to Him. This resulted in deep inward weeping and release from binding fears. Since then, on another six occasions, this revelation has been repeated but not so strongly. God showed me that I was more precious to Him than any other thing or person I knew of!
7. **Fear and love are opposites. The knowledge that God loves me sets me free from fear. Love flows in, fear flows out! We are either controlled by knowing God's love or by fear, 1Jn 4:18.**
8. Some fears:
 - a. **Fear of rejection** - including fear of ridicule, criticism, hurt, embarrassment, exposure, condemnation, anger, evil expectation etc. The result of these fears is that we become people pleasers, rather than God pleasers. **Fear of man controls us.** Frequently Jesus received strong rejection e.g. *Lk 4:29, Mat 26:65,66, Jn 1:11*, but the fear of rejection did not control Him because He was secure in His Father's love.
 - b. **Fear of failure** and its results. For some, security and the approval of others depends on being successful. "People will love me if I am successful!" Fear of failure leads to striving for success. Jesus was mocked for being a failure in the eyes of man, *Lk 23:35-37*. But what God requires of us is not "success" in the world's eyes but faithful obedient service, *Mat 24:45-47, Mat 25:21,23, 1Cor 4:2.*
 - c. **Fear of loss of reputation**, job, position, possessions and money, causes people to seek after material prosperity for their security, rather than seeking first God's Kingdom and His Righteousness, *Mat 6:33*. God is our Source of supply, *Phil 4:19, Ps 91:1*. In Him we have all things, *1Cor 3:21,22,23, Ps 18:1-3.*

9. *1Jn 4:19*. It is the revelation of **God's love for us** that releases in us love towards God and other believers. God is the Source of love, *1Jn 4:7,8, Gal 5:22*. Ours is a love of response, *1Jn 4:10*. We are able to love others when we are secure in His love.
10. God is loving us when He forgives, heals, guides, protects, feeds, encourages, strengthens, saves, delivers, gives us His Word and His Spirit, chastens us or rebukes us, *Heb 12:5,6, Rev 3:19*. Everything God does for us is expressing His love. He gives food, clothing, shelter, warmth, light, drink, rain, seasons, sunshine, night, songs of praise, prayer and faith. Praise His Name!
11. *1Cor 11:26* Our frequent communion service is the celebration to remind us of how much God loves us. *Mat 26:27,28* - He said, "Drink from it all of you. This is My Blood of the New Covenant which is poured out for many....."
12. Reach out to God in faith, believing, and ask Him to show you how much He loves you. *Lk 11:9-13, Ps 84:11, Ezk 36:9, Ps 118:6,7*.