

**HEALING THE PAST GOD'S WAY**  
**CHAPTER 9 TEACHING NOTES**  
**GOD IS LOVE**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love,  
and I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck.  
Hosea 11:4

The focus of this class is how God's love saturates all of His other attributes and how His other attributes – justice, holiness, grace, power, transcendence, goodness, etc. – impact His love. God is love in His justice. God is love in His holiness. God is love in His grace. God is sovereign in His love. God is good in His love. Etc.

Remind the women that God's love will never end. 1 Corinthians 13:13 *So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.* Hope is about the promised future; faith is about trust in the unseen God; neither hope nor faith will be necessary in eternity. But love, love remains.

The class on God's character focused on God's goodness in joy and God's goodness in sorrow. Take this week and lay the groundwork for how we are changed in the presence of God. If he / she can not see the impact of God's character on their lives, help them make the connection.

For example:

God's holiness invites purity as I choose God's ways over the world's ways.

God's justice encourages me to forgive others who have sinned against me.

God's eternal nature teaches me to view my life in light of eternity.

God's power coaxes me to trust God as my Defender.

God's goodness persuades me towards a heart of gratitude for what He has given me and it teaches me to trust Him when God takes it away.

Help the individual woman (or man) see themselves in light of who God is. *God is God; therefore I am changed.*

**REVIEW (from Chapter 2): GOD DEFINES LOVE: 1 John 4:7 - 12; 1 Corinthians 13:4 - 13**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

See what kind of love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. 1 John 3:1a

## **REVIEW: GOD'S LOVE IS INFINITE: Romans 8:31 – 39**

MEASURELESS SACRIFICE OF THE CROSS: ETERNAL SACRIFICE OF SIN  
(Hebrews 10:12 – 14) \*if you don't know what you've been saved from, you will not KNOW  
God's love - Luke 7:36 – 50 – story of woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears

## **REVIEW: GOD'S LOVE IS AN ACTION**

God created us  
God saved us - John 3:16; Romans 8:32; 2 Corinthians 5:17 – 21; **1 John 3:16**  
God sustains us  
God sanctifies us  
God is calling us home

## **REVIEW: GOD'S LOVE IS A PERFECTING LOVE: Hebrews 12:3 – 13**

God disciplines, trains, corrects and teaches us as He changes us to look more and more like His Son. It is a process that only a perfectly loving and holy God can accomplish.

## **REVIEW: GOD'S LOVE IS MY FOUNDATION: Various Psalms**

Take a look at how the Psalmists described God: Rock, Fortress, Strong Tower, Deliverer, Shield, Defender, Shepherd, etc. As you walk through those descriptions, glean a picture of what it looks like when the object of God's love (us), embraces the fullness of that love. Teach your people to recognize the manifestation (the practical evidence) of God's love through and in their lives.

# **GOD IS LOVE**

## **GOD'S LOVE IS MY FOUNDATION - *the relationship***

### **A selection from A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God***

The interior journey of the soul from the wilds of sin into the enjoyed Presence of God is beautifully illustrated in the Old Testament tabernacle. The returning sinner first entered the outer court where he offered a blood sacrifice on the brazen altar and washed himself in the laver that stood near it. Then through a veil he passed into the holy place where no natural light could come, but the golden candlestick which spoke of Jesus the Light of the World threw its soft glow over all. There also was the shewbread to tell of Jesus, the Bread of Life, and the altar of incense, a figure of unceasing prayer.

Though the worshipper had enjoyed so much, still he had not yet entered the Presence of God. Another veil separated the Holy of Holies where above the mercy seat dwelt the very God Himself in awful and glorious manifestation. While the tabernacle stood, only the high priest could enter there, and that but once a year, with blood which he offered for his sins and the sins of the people. It was this last veil which was rent when our Lord gave up the ghost on Calvary, and the sacred writer explains that this rending of the veil opened the way for every worshipper in the world to come by the new and living way straight into the divine Presence.

Everything in the New Testament accords with this Old Testament picture. Ransomed men need no longer pause in fear to enter the Holy of Holies. *God wills that we should push on into His Presence and live our whole life there.* This is to be known to us in conscious experience. It is more than a doctrine to be held, it is a life to be enjoyed every moment of every day.

## **POINT OUT GOD'S ATTRIBUTES IN EPHESIANS 1**

**GOD IS LOVE IN HIS JUSTICE:** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

**GOD IS LOVE IN HIS ETERNAL NATURE:** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. . . according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

**GOD IS LOVE IN HIS MIGHT:** (omniscience) in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose,

**GOD IS LOVE IN HIS GOODNESS:** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**GOD IS LOVE IN HIS GRACE:** according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1

*the commitment (our response to God's love)*

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:1 – 10

Our LORD Jesus, by His death, did not purchase a right to just a part of us, but to all of us. He pondered in His passion our complete sanctification – spirit, soul and body, that in every area He Himself might reign supreme without a rival. It is the business of the newborn nature that God has given to the regenerate to assert the rights of the LORD Jesus Christ. My soul, insofar as you are a child of God, you must conquer all the rest of yourself that remains unblessed; you must subdue all your passions and powers, and you must never be satisfied until He who is King by purchase also becomes King by gracious coronation and reigns in you supreme. Alistar Begg

**QUESTIONS TO POSE AS I CONSIDER MY COMMITMENT:**

1. Do I invite Jesus into my day? As I wake, work, spend time with family and friends, am I conscious of Jesus in the middle of that activity?
2. Do I live my life compartmentalized (divided) into separate and disparate sections of family, faith, work, recreation, hobbies, etc., living fragmented as if one part of my life should not impact another part? Or do I live a transparent life, living as the same person (as a child of God) in all the different things I do?
3. Do I desire a love relationship with Jesus? How do I show Him I love Him?
4. What practical steps can I take to grow my love of Jesus and my love for Jesus? What steps can I take to learn more about His love for me?