

## Summary

- a) This session is the seventh of ten sessions that looks at a vital principle that fosters Spirit-led living. The seventh principle that we will examine is this: Renewing your mind comes from meditation, and meditation always determines your orientation, whether you live from the spirit, soul, or body.
- b) This session explains that experiencing God's love is the key to being healed and delivered from the root of rejection. More specifically, this session looks at several expressions of God's love that delivers you from rejection, including God's nature is love; God loves you as much as the Father loves His Son; God is intimately acquainted with you; the Lord pursues you to be in a relationship with Him; you are the Lord's beloved and chosen; and the Lord desires to be in you and live His life through you.

## How Rejection Affects You

- a) God created us to be loved by Him and others and to love Him and others. He designed us for the first and second commandments—to love God with all our hearts and to love others as we have been loved. Love for God and others overflows from experiencing love first.
- b) 1 John 4:19 states, "We love, because He first loved us."
- c) We have a strong innate need for social connection and acceptance. Whenever you experience rejection, it threatens this fundamental need, creating many different types of responses.
- d) Because everyone is different, no one responds to rejection in the same way. The way people respond to rejection is complex and depends upon various factors, including your personality, the nature of the rejection, and your social context.
- e) Most people don't realize how much rejection has affected who they are and the negative fruit that has been produced from the root of rejection.
- f) The fruit of rejection is listed below.
  - Rebellion
  - Bitterness
  - Escapism
  - Judgmentalism
  - Depression
  - Cynicism
  - Withdrawal
  - Independence
  - Insecurity
  - Distrust
  - Fear
  - Defensiveness
  - Competition
  - Isolation
  - Anger
  - Inferiority
  - Jealousy
  - Hopelessness
  - Hardness
  - Perfectionism
  - Control
- g) The purpose of describing how rejection affects you is to shine light upon the fruit of rejection in your life so that you can experience healing and deliverance and produce the fruit of the Spirit. My goal is to help transplant you from the soil of rejection to the soil of God's love.
- h) When you see the fruit of rejection in your life, it helps you to respond differently and to sink your roots deeper into the only thing that can heal you and produce good fruit—God's infinite love.

- i) Paul said, “That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:17-19).

## God’s Love Delivers You from Rejection

- a) John wrote, “We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him” (1 John 4:16).
- b) Knowing God’s love for you and believing God’s love for you severs rejection at the root. Experiencing God’s love for you daily transplants you from soil of rejection to the soil of God’s love.
- c) Therefore, in this message, I want to talk about seven expressions of God’s love.

### 1. God’s nature is love.

- a) John the Apostle wrote, “The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:8). Several verses later, he stated, “We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him” (1 John 4:16).
- b) *God is love.* These three monumental words define the essence of God’s nature. God, who is without beginning or end, is love. At the core of God’s uncreated, eternal being is fiery, passionate, all-consuming love. God burns with holy, jealous, unquenchable love.
- c) Deuteronomy 4:24 states, “For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.” Hebrews 12:29 reiterates this truth, declaring, “For our God is a consuming fire.” Taking the truth that God is both love and a consuming fire means God’s love is a consuming fire. His burning love is a jealous love that consumes every rival and foe.
- d) The Bridegroom says to us, His cherished, blood-bought bride, “Put me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, jealousy is as severe as Sheol; its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD” (Song. 8:6).
- e) When the fire of God’s love ignites your heart, His jealous love consumes sin, self, and every soulish affection competing with Him. If you truly know God, who is fiery love, you too will love like He loves. If you abide in this fiery, all-consuming love, you will abide in God who is love.

### 2. The Father loves the Son.

#### *The Father and Son’s Eternal Relationship.*

- a) Jesus said, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). This union didn’t occur after the incarnation. Reading through John 17, you see that the Father and the Son’s inseparable relationship never had a beginning (John 17:10, 21-22, 24).
- b) Throughout eternity past, the Father and Son shared an intimacy with each other that is beyond words. The two were bound together in perfect union by the Holy Spirit. Human language fails to articulate the intimacy, deep conversations, and unending communion the Father and Son shared through the Holy Spirit.
- c) For billions of years, without external entertainment, the Father and the Son were delighted, joyful, and eternally satisfied in the fellowship of the Trinity. Never bored or needy, the Father and Son experienced unending pleasure in unbroken union.
- d) Jesus said, “The Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing” (John 5:20). In response, “Whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner” (John 5:19). What beautiful, unbreakable intimacy that the Father and the Son have always shared.

- e) Jesus said, “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him” (Matt. 11:27).
- f) The Father and the Son’s eternal intimacy and union was manifested and revealed throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry. That’s why Jesus could say, “The Father abiding in Me does His works. . . . In that day you will know that I am in My Father” (John 14:10,20).
- g) Simply, words fail to describe the Father and the Son’s eternal union and inseparable bond. No relationship rivals theirs. It is utterly unique, incomparable, ineffable, and transcendent.

### *The Father’s Passion for His Son.*

- a) Just prior to His crucifixion, Jesus said to His Father, “You loved Me before the foundation of the world” (John 17:24). The Son was the object of the Father’s affection and love throughout eternity past. He has always been the “beloved Son” or “the Son of His love” (Col. 1:13, NASB and NKJV).
- b) Before time and creation, the Father burned with affection, rejoiced with ecstatic joy, overflowed with pleasure, and delighted deeply in His Son. Jonathan Edwards said, “The infinite happiness of the Father consists in the enjoyment of His Son.”<sup>1</sup> John Piper said, “God’s pleasure is first and foremost a pleasure in his Son.”<sup>2</sup> God’s euphoric love for His Son cannot be overstated.
- c) As the Father gazed upon His Son in eternity past and beheld the excellencies of His beauty, glory, and nature, we can imagine the Father erupting with shouts of joy, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased.”<sup>3</sup>
- d) What is it about the Son that fills the Father with such joy and delight? It’s His perfect balance of infinite majesty and transcendent meekness. His radiant glory and servant-like humility. His exacting justice and unmerited grace. His uncompromising righteousness and tender mercies. His fear of God and equality with God. His submission to the Father and His absolute dominion. His self-sufficiency and utter reliance upon God.
- e) The Father’s love for His Son “come[s] not just from his majesty, nor just from his meekness, but from the way these mingle in perfect proportion.”<sup>4</sup> The Son is the Lion of Judah who will shake the heavens and the earth when He unleashes the events of the last days (Rev. 5:5). But this is only half the picture. The Son is worthy of this role because He is the Lamb who was slain (Rev. 5:6). What seems utterly incompatible in one person is perfectly balanced in the Son. As A.W. Tozer said, God “never suspends one of His attributes in order to exercise another.”<sup>5</sup> The eternal Son is the Lion of Judah and the slain Lamb, interwoven. And this makes Him glorious and beautiful to the Father.
- f) When the Scriptures describe the Father’s love for His Son, it’s not speaking of a self-denying, sacrificial love. It’s not a love rooted in mercy or compassion. The Father is not lowering His standards to love one who is unworthy. As John Piper said,

When we say that God loves the Son . . . we are talking about a love of delight and pleasure. God is not stooping to pity the undeserving when he loves the Son. He is well-pleased with his Son. His soul delights in the Son! When he looks at his Son he enjoys and admires and cherishes and prizes and relishes what he sees. The first great pleasure of God is his pleasure in the Son.<sup>6</sup>

### 3. God loves you as much as the Father loves His Son.

- a) When you understand the Father’s eternal love for His Son, perhaps the two most amazing verses in the Bible are John 15:9 and John 17:23. These verses state:

That the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me (John 17:23).

Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you (John 15:9).

- b) Make sure you catch this: Both the Father and the Son love you just as much as the Father has always loved His Son.
- c) What does this mean? The Godhead invites you into an inseparable relationship with Him, an intimacy beyond words.
- d) The Father and the Son desire that you are bound together in perfect union with them by the Holy Spirit.
- e) The Godhead yearns for a relationship with you marked by intimacy, deep conversations, and unending communion with them through the Holy Spirit.
- f) A relationship of delight, joy, and eternal satisfaction in the fellowship of the Trinity. A relationship of unending pleasure in unbroken union.
- g) The Father and the Son burn with affection for you, rejoice with ecstatic joy over you, overflow with pleasure for you, and delight deeply in you.

### 4. God is intimately acquainted with you.

- a) Psalm 139 is a beautiful chapter describing God's heart toward you.
- b) In this psalm, David says to the Lord:
  - You have searched me and known me (Ps. 139:1).
  - You understand my thought from afar (Ps. 139:2).
  - You scrutinize my path and my lying down (Ps. 139:3).
  - You are intimately acquainted with all my ways (Ps. 139:3).
  - Before there is a word on my tongue, you know it all (Ps. 139:4).
  - You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me (Ps. 139:5).
  - You formed my inward parts; you wove me in my mother's womb; I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139:13).
  - In Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them (Ps. 139:15).
- c) This psalm not only described God's watchful care for David; it articulates God's passion and care for you. The same way God felt about David is how he feels about you.

### 5. The Lord pursues you to be in a relationship with Him.

- a) Speaking about Israel at the end of the age, the Lord says, "Therefore, behold, I am going to persuade her, bring her into the wilderness, and speak kindly to her" (Hos. 2:14, NASB20). Even though this describes the Lord's pursuit of Israel, it demonstrates His pursuit of you.
- b) The Lord pursues you to be in a relationship with Him. He does not force you to love Him against your free will. Rather, He *persuades* you, moving upon your heart, speaking kindly to you in love, and entreating you with earnest desire to be in a deep relationship with Him. He moves upon your heart so that you will follow and obey Him fully.

- c) The Lord told the twelve apostles, “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you” (John 15:16).
- d) If you are born again and in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, it’s not because you one day decided to follow Him. No, way before you ever thought about following Christ, the Lord, as a loving Bridegroom, was pursuing you. He chose you first and you chose Him in response to His prior choosing of you.
- e) Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him” (John 6:44). It’s impossible for anyone to come to Christ by their own will moving them toward God apart from a divine aid and persuasion. If you are in a relationship with Christ, it’s because He drew you to Himself before you surrendered your life to Him. The Lord’s drawing is always prior.
- f) Jesus said, “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him” (Matt. 11:27). If you know the Father and the Son, it’s not because you are a skilled God-seeker. It’s because prior to you having hunger and desire, the Lord was pursuing you. He was wooing you to Himself, revealing both the Father and the Son to you.
- g) The Lord spoke through Jeremiah, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness” (Jer. 31:3). Because of the Lord’s eternal love for you, He drew you to Himself with steadfast love and devotion.
- h) The Lord spoke to ancient Israel, “You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself” (Exo. 19:4). In the same way God pursued the Hebrews of old, He also pursued you and brought you to Himself, driven by His passionate love for you.
- i) David wrote, “How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You to dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple” (Ps. 65:4). If there’s any desire in your heart to pursue the Lord, to know Him, to worship in His presence, and to be in an intimate relationship with Him, it’s because He first chose you, pursued you, drew you to Himself, and revealed Himself to you. You merely responded to His prior pursuit and drawing.

## 6. You are the Lord’s beloved and chosen.

- a) Paul told the Thessalonians, “Knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you” (1 Thess. 1:4). Because of the Lord’s great love for you, He calls you His *beloved*. You the one He has chosen.
- b) Like Daniel, you are a man or woman who is “greatly loved,” you are one who is “greatly beloved” (Dan. 10:11, ESV, NASB). Like John, you are the disciple whom Jesus loves (John 13:23, 25; 21:20).

## 7. The Lord desired to be in you and for you to live by His life.

- a) John wrote, “By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him” (1 John 4:9).
- b) Basically, John told us how God expresses His love for us. The Lord loves us so much He desires to be in us (John 17:21). This is one reason why God sent His Son into the world—to be in us so that we might know Him intimately and live by His life.
- c) When death looms at your doorstep, what’s most important in your heart has a way of surfacing. Facing imminent death, Jesus poured out His heart to the Father, reaching back to their relationship in eternity past. “You loved Me before the foundation of the world,” He said (John 17:24).

- d) In this moment of intense grief, Jesus found great comfort in His Father's eternal affections. There was also someone who gave Him courage to embrace the cross. There was a "joy set before Him" by which "He endured the cross" (Heb. 12:2). Who was this someone and what was this joy that motivated Jesus to suffer such persecution, pain, rejection, and shame? The last words of His prayer answer this question.
- e) With every ounce of His heart, Jesus prayed, "Father . . . I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:25-26).
- f) As the Lover in the romance of the ages, the eternal Son became a man of flesh and blood to win the heart of His beloved. Jesus endured the pain and shame of the cross so that He could have a bride, someone He could lavish with His unrelenting love. The Bridegroom willingly suffered at Golgotha so that He could have a beloved, someone who would receive His relentless love and love Him in return.
- g) Jesus died on the cross so that He could have voluntary lovers who would choose Him and love Him with the Father's very own love. Thus, the love which Jesus experienced from His Father in eternity past would be multiplied through a corporate bride, one who came forth from His very own side.
- h) But there's a precursor that can't be ignored. God's entire purpose for the ages hinges upon three simple words: "I in them." Meditate upon this for a minute. Ponder the deep implications of this.
- i) There is only one way for humanity to become the bride. Christ must dwell within her. The life-giving Spirit of the Son must be planted within the spirit of His beloved. Why? Because human life and divine life are incompatible. Only by possessing the divine life of the Son could humanity be conformed into His image and be fit to marry the King.
- j) Without divine life implanted within you, you could never have unending fellowship with God in the holy of holies. Drawing near would be as impossible as combining oil and water.
- k) God loves you so much that He wants not only to be with you, but within you. Have you ever thought about that? Jesus burned with such a desire to live in you that He ended His most heartfelt prayer recorded in the Scriptures with this request.

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<sup>1</sup> John Piper, *The Pleasures of God* (Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1991), p. 31.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 24.

<sup>3</sup> Inspired by Piper, *The Pleasures of God*, p. 27.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 27.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cmalliance.org/devotions/tozer?id=1412>, referenced on 7/31/2018.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 31.