

The true reason why John felt LOVED by God

Bertie Brits

September 15, 2019

Greetings... It's a blessing for me to come to you today and just share a short message of the Grace of God with you. Then we will look at one of my older messages that I preached on October 21, 2018. It is a message where I spoke about why the Apostles felt loved by God. I think it is going to impact you in such a great way. I was listening to some of my older messages yesterday and I just thought that this is an awesome message to just stream, again, today.

I have something short that I want to share with you. But, before we get into any of that, I would like to welcome everybody that is hearing this and I want to know that you will only hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ from this platform. You are not going to hear any message on what you need to do to get God to do for you. You are not going to hear anything outside of what I believed was preached by the apostles. The message that is administered here will be something that if you believe it and have your heart convinced about it, you will find the powerful birth of the resurrection life in you bring forth the life of God in you. This is what this is all about: A platform whereby I can serve you with what God has served me with. It is also a platform where you can interact with one another where people that are like-minded can start to know each other.

Before we get into anything, let us just pray together...

Father, I want to thank You so much for the love that You have for Humanity. I want to thank You that You have come to preserve our lives forever. I want to thank You that I can sit here and just share with people that have slotted into this Web stream where they have opened their hearts and say, "I want to know more! I want to understand the Gospel." Thank You that I can serve them and that you have empowered me to do that... in Jesus' mighty name. All the glory to You! Amen

As many of you know, I have been in Brazil this previous week and I had just an absolute outstanding time ministering the Gospel of God's grace there. I've met with different preachers from different areas of the world and ministered the gospel of grace to many church leaders. We've had, like I said, an outstanding time. It was packed with people but the greatest of all is that those leaders embrace this message. Bishop Florrie, the man who invited me, who heads up all those churches, said to me, "Bertie, you know when you preach, I cannot blink an eye because I am kind of scared on what you are going to say next but I know that what is going to be next is it will be challenging and life-changing and the truth." That's the heart that these people had when I went to preach there. It was one of the best times that I have had in my life sharing the gospel of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

I was just so, so, blessed and I know that a lot of fruit will still come forth from these meetings. Good relationships are being built and open doors for the message of God's grace. Glory to God!

I want to thank everybody who were just encouraging me on the trip, giving messages on Facebook, private messages on Messenger and so forth. It was wonderful just to see your support as I was going on this trip.

Now before we get into the message, I'm just going to share something that is on my heart. Last night I was listening to a message and this came to my mind: Would the gospel, that we preach today, be recognizable to the apostles of Jesus Christ should we preach what we believe today in Jesus' time or in the times of Paul the Apostle? We have had a message that is so circled around payment theology where the Father punished the Son for our sins so that Jesus can be raised from the dead so that one day He can take us to heaven one day.

If I take that message that I've just mentioned now, and preach it to the Apostle Paul, would he say, "Amen" or would he say, "What are you talking about?" It sounds shocking but I think it is very important to study the scriptures to know what God is saying. In last Sunday's message, I said it this way: If it is by grace, it is certain! That's what it is. If it is by promise, by God promising, then you can have it! What is God's promise? If we can only be sure that we will have what God has promised us by God fulfilling His promise, then we can also be very sure that in any other thing that we want to produce by ourselves, we will not have what God has promised. God has promised us eternal life from the beginning and that is a gift! That is something that's wonderful! That is what the Apostle Paul called, "The Good News"!

So, when we preach the gospel, is our gospel the gospel that Paul preached? Is our gospel the good news of God? Is our gospel the good news of Jesus where Jesus said, "I've got good news for you! The kingdom of God is at hand!" I mean, that was the good news to Jesus! The good news to Jesus was that the kingdom of God is at hand. The good news to the Apostle Paul was that this kingdom of God that is at hand is being put forth by a man, Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God, where we are sure of His power and we are sure of His life.

Let me read 2Timothy 1 This is Paul encouraging Timothy and I want to encourage every preacher, I want to encourage every person that is hearing this today. I want to say this to you: As we experience the goodness and the kindness and the love of God and as we understand His message of grace, we will have a lot of fruit coming forth in our lives on account of God. That is good news to us. It is good news to know that God is in control in bringing forth His life in us and that's the gift that He has come to give us.

Let me read how Paul encouraged Timothy.

2Timothy 1:

8 Be not therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be you a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

9 Who has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works (not talking about the Law here, not talking about circumcision. That's not how we are called. We are not called to become Jews. That is not what we are called to do. That is what he basically says here.) **but** (we are called) **according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,**

Now he is going to talk about what is the purpose and what is the grace, the purpose whereby God has made you, why we are here, what this grace of God is. He says that this purpose and this grace, which was before the world began has now been manifested.

10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has abolished death, and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Listen to what Paul is saying here. Paul is saying, "Listen Timothy. Don't be ashamed of the testimony of Jesus!" What is the testimony of Jesus? It is the testimony whereby the early disciples testified that Jesus was raised from the dead and that He is now Lord and that He has abolished death! "Don't be ashamed of the message of the resurrection!" That is what he is saying. He said, "This faith was in your grandmother, in your mother, and I believe it is also in you... the persuasion of the resurrection. And you have the gift of eternal life and also, you have been commissioned to go and share and preach this message of the resurrection. God had in mind, before the world began, that He would influence and empower us by His life to immortality, eternal life. That is the good news! And he says, "This good news of eternal life has now been brought forth by Jesus' resurrection, by the gospel that Jesus was raised from the dead. So, he says, "Don't be ashamed of the gospel which is the message that Jesus was raised from the dead, that death is abolished and that life in immortality, which God had promised before the world began, is now ours!" And that is how he encourages Timothy.

So, Church, what is the gospel? What is the good news? Earlier today, I put on Facebook, "Ask yourself the following question everyday: "What is the gospel of Jesus?" Then think of the Apostle Paul after Jesus appeared to him and how he went and preached the gospel, the good news that Jesus was raised. Then ask yourself the question that the message you believe today about what the gospel is or what you hear from television or your Facebook broadcast or even me... whosoever preaches to you, "Is that the gospel?" The gospel is a simple, short message: Jesus has abolished death!

I remember in the 1800's, I think it was Wilburn Smith, I can't remember the exact person, but he abolished slavery. Or we look at Nelson Mandela and say that he abolished apartheid. Now that is big news in the world. That is great, happy, news, but I have better news than that: JESUS ABOLISHED DEATH! Listen to that... Jesus abolished death! Now that is amazing! That is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I don't want to preach a full message on that but you can just go to Ephesians chapter 1 and read from verse 1 to 10 and just see how he talks only about what was planned before time, what we have been predestined to which is this eternal life from where the kingdom belongs to us. It's the good news of Jesus ruling and reigning, giving us eternal life. That is the true gospel.

Just know this that the gospel of Jesus is the message of grace and this is the foundation from where we feel loved.

Now we are going to go over to the message I preached in October 21, 2018 and we are going to look to that. I'm sure that as you listen to this message again, you will experience and feel the love of God.

FEELING LOVED BY GOD (Part 1)

Bertie Brits

October 21, 2018

Today I am going to be talking about feeling loved by God. So many times we say that God loves us and we say that we feel loved. I think that many times we confuse gratitude with the feeling of feeling loved. What does it mean to feel loved by God?

I put a post on Facebook asking people why would they say that they are loved by God. Most people basically said, "Because the bible says so." or "Because He says so every day." But I think it is a fundamental question to ask in showing where our belief is about the love of God. Many people say, "Because Jesus died for me." Some said, "Because Jesus was raised from the dead."

If I think in my life, on why God loves me, what makes me feel loved" There was a time in my life I would say, "I feel loved because of the wife I have or because I have healthy children, because God has given me a ministry and I can preach the Gospel to people. I feel loved because when I have a meeting, people came to the meeting and we could experience the presence of God or the supernatural. If the ministry got a financial donation, I would feel loved by God. When those things happened, it was a powerful emotion in my heart but I would say, in hindsight, that it was actually gratitude. It was not the feeling of love. That was not what made me feel loved by God. Later on, as I had discovered more of the Gospel and what the Gospel is, I've come to the conclusion that God really loves me.

I want to look at a broader understanding of the Gospel and then the emotion of feeling loved by God. If we go and look at the writers of the New Testament, especially John and the Apostle Paul, and we look at why they said they felt loved by God, I believe you will get a good understanding of what the message was that caused the early Church to say, "We are truly loved by God!"

We must remember that in our world that we live in, we live in a very materialistic world and I believe it was also that way back then, where we measure breakthrough and the love of God by our possessions and by how well it goes with us in this world... by how healthy we are... by how financially secure we are, etc. We measure the love of God by that.

Now, I want to say to have gratitude towards God for that is not wrong. I mean, Paul said that he had great gratitude and he continually thanks the Lord for the faith that he sees in people. When he sees these churches and the churches that he planted prosper in the sense of having the Gospel and living by faith and that there is peace in the Church. He has gratitude towards those who would give towards him and he thanks God for that. He is grateful to the Lord and it brings praises to God where people thank God.

So, I want you to know that we are not belittling or looking down on gratitude. The bible even says that grace is the Divine influence upon the heart, the reflection in the life and also, in the definition of grace, includes gratitude. So, grace will bring gratitude to your heart, gratitude to what God has brought forth in your life.

We are going to look at John. What does John say makes him feel loved?

When we look at our world, we have had a gospel where we have said, "Well, if I can be healthy, if I can be prosperous, then the blessing of Abraham is upon me and I am loved by God." But your subconscious mind will never be satisfied with that definition of love. You will never be satisfied with, 'God loves me because of finances' or 'God loves me because of the health and protection of my family', or those kinds of things. You know, in the back of your mind, that someday one of your family members is eventually going to die. You know that. It is something that is in the back of your mind and it cannot go away.

Let me give you a good example. Imagine you feel loved when you can jog when you are out in the countryside. What about the day when you get old and cannot jog anymore? Will you then say, "I don't feel loved!" Because if your emotion, or the feeling inside your heart, is based on, "I feel loved when these things happen to me," what will you say when you get persecuted for the Gospel: Or like the Apostle Paul, sitting in the stocks in jail, actually sitting in the feces of other people, but he is praising God and feeling gratitude? Remember Paul said that he suffered under robbers. That means that the Apostle Paul was not protected from robbers. We don't even want to hear that because we have a concept of God and our security in God is actually based on our security of our stuff and our life in this world. You might say, "Bertie, I don't want to hear this!"

I want to bring a message to you what the Lord has brought to my heart that has made me feel loved. In my life, I have a house. I have a car. I have a healthy wife and healthy kids. It's going well in the normal sense of this life. But I want to say that is not why I feel loved. I am grateful, very grateful, for that and I don't wish that to be away. Yet, that is not what defines the feeling of feeling loved. I almost want to say that before I had a certain understanding of the gospel, I've never felt loved. I thought I felt loved but I confused feeling loved with gratitude or just being happy that I have something. That is what I had. But God has come that we can actually feel loved.

I think of Dawn Warner, one of our web pastors. She has lost one of her legs in a motor accident when she was 17 years of age. If I say that I feel loved because I can walk, what must Dawn say? How is she going to feel loved? She doesn't have a leg.

Can she only feel loved once she gets a leg? If I feel loved because of the health of my family, what about those who have lost loved ones that have been at a place where they have lost a loved one or got a divorce or whose child doesn't believe in the Lord or whose friends are not excited about the Gospel? What about the poor in Africa? I mean in South Africa we look at what is going on in our country and we are calling upon the Lord. We would say, "God loves us. He is healing our nation." So we can feel loved by God when our nation is healed but what about the Christians in Zimbabwe? Can they not feel loved by God? I don't know when it was recorded but I have just seen a video now where people are lining up at shops to get food. There is no food. They are standing close to each other, pressing, pushing, just to get some food. I remember when I go through that country and there was just nothing on the shelves. You are walking into a shop and you find maybe 3 bottles of water there. No electricity... pitch dark in the shop but the shop is open trying to sell the 3 or 4 bottles of water but there is no money. Money blows in the street because it has no value. People throw it away.

Now, can those people feel loved by God or can they not feel loved by God? The question is that so many times that is how we find things amazing. I look at outreaches when preachers do outreaches in Africa and people from overseas come. The first thing that amazes them is they say, "These people, these Christians, have nothing but they are happy! What makes them happy? What is the cause of joy? That is what we are after!" We are going to define why John said that God loves him.

I want to read Webster's definition of love. Those who follow my ministry have heard this before but I am going to explain this again. I want to say to you that God, the Almighty, loves you! There is a certain way where He expresses that love to the point that the richest person can feel loved and that the poorest person can feel loved. All people can feel the love of God equally. I want to tell you that should people have a revelation of this, we will find a lot of trouble in our countries will stop because we will find the person, that has a lot, not finding a need to hoard all the time but finding a generosity in his heart and not a fear. We will find the man that has nothing not lusting after the man that has things. But, both of them can be equally happy... equally joyful. I want to tell you that it is possible for a person that drives a luxury car and a person who walks the street that will never own a car, to be equally happy. It is possible for a person that lives in a shack in the Cape Flats to be as happy as a person who lives in a nice house and has a stable income. I'm not just talking about heaven. I am talking about truly feeling loved by God, it is possible for both of them to feel equally happy, equally joyful, have equal amount of worship in their heart towards God because they both feel completely loved by the Almighty God.

I want to say to you again that God truly loves you. The Almighty God is a being that has emotions. He is an emotional being. He has reasoning. He has thinking. He can think about things. He thinks about things. When God made you, He first fell in love with the very thought of you... A thought of having someone like you. It's the same as what a father and mother fall in love with the idea of having a child. Then they love that child even before that child was born. The first thing they have is they feel, "Let us have a child!" Then from that love thoughts come. They have thoughts of preparing a room for the child. They prepare things for him. Their thoughts start to go.

It's like ministry. I remember when I just received the Lord. I had the idea of preaching the Gospel to the world and I fell in love with that idea. From that idea came thoughts on how to get that to manifest. All my thoughts were born from that. In the very same way, I want to say to you that God is a being that can feel, think, reason and all of that. He is not just this monotone power force. He is a person and this God loves you! His love towards you can be described in love terms, in love language.

Webster's Dictionary defines love as, "to be pleased with, to regard another with affection, on account of qualities which excites a pleasing sensation or desires of gratification..."

You know that God has a desire of gratification. He has gratification in His heart when He sees you. He has a pleasing sensation. When He thought of man, He had a pleasing sensation inside Him and that pleasing sensation that He has is described by Webster's Dictionary as the feeling of love. God has that towards you. The word, love, means the affection of the mind excited by beauty. You know, you are a human excites the mind of God. A human has an affection on the mind of God because of the beauty of a human, because of the value of a human, because of the qualities which communicates pleasure to God sensually and intellectually. It means that you stimulate God intellectually, in His feelings and in His emotions. You stimulate Him. God does feel those feelings but the question is this: How do you know that God feels those things? "I just feel it." But then tomorrow you have a bad day or you feel depressed, then you don't feel that God loves you anymore. You have the roller coaster Christianity. The one day you are in the clouds and the next day you are spreading the Gospel for you are excited about God. Then you lose your job or you get ill and you pray and the prayer doesn't work. Or, if we think of South Africa and if we think of different places in the world, what is going on, politically, some areas are going well and other areas are saying, "Lord, what are we doing wrong? Are You not pleased with us!" We find that all the time.

When it goes bad then people want to confess sin because God is now not pleased with us and He doesn't love us anymore and He cannot express His love toward us and He is judging us because we are going through a difficult time. We have this up and down, this up and down Christianity.

I want to say this and as an introduction: The question is, "How do you know that God is stimulated intellectually, sensually, in all of His feelings that He loses His breath over you. How do you know for sure, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that God loves you even if you would lose all your property? How do you know? How do you know that you are communicating pleasure to God that He is excited, His mind, His thoughts, is excited by your beauty as what a father is excited. His thoughts get excited or made alive or life is put into his thoughts on how to provide for his child even before the child is born. How do you know that God feels that way towards you as a human being? That is very important because if you can know, and if that can be solid and stable, you will find that your emotions start to stabilize. You will find your thoughts start to stabilize. It's not, "I'm trying to confess positive", and all those kinds of things."

Before I read the first verse, I want to ask this: How many people does it take to move God? And what must these people do in order to move the hand of God in a nation? I want say to you what Jesus said because we can think that if we do certain things as a nation, I'm speaking for South Africa and this is true for many nations where there are Christians who are going through difficult times. We are thinking, "What shall we do so that we can move the hand of God? What can we do as Christians? Can we pray together? Can we fast? Can we spread the Gospel? What can we do to move the hand of God?"

Now the question is, "What do you think needs to take place in order to move the hand of God? I want to say this" Do you know what it takes in order for God's hand to move? Just one lost person that is not even calling out to Him. Let me say it again. What does it take to move the hand of God?" **It takes just one lost person that doesn't even call out to Him.** That's what it takes. "But, Bertie, that cannot be true!"

I want to tell you that Jesus came and He said that He would leave the 99 sheep and go after the one lost sheep! He will seek it until he finds it! Jesus is not saying, "Until My sheep are blaring until I cannot take their blaring anymore, I will move." No, all it takes is one lost sheep! I want to say to you that in order to say that a sheep is lost you have to declare that it belongs! In order to call it lost, you have to declare that it belonged! So I want to say to you that you, whole of humanity, belongs to God. The life that you live might not be born from God. It can be born from the devil. But all humans belong to God and the sheep that is lost is God's sheep. It's God's person. In order for God to move, you need just one lost person!

I want to tell you that when Adam was lost he didn't call out to God. God called out to him! We are thinking and this is how we define the love of God: We've defined the love of God so much in stuff and in things and how it goes in our finances and in our country and in all those kind of things. We have defined the love of God so much in that, that we cannot feel loved unless God heals those things. We cannot feel loved.

I am not saying that God will not provide. I'm telling you that God can provide. I am telling you, "First seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you for God knows that you have need of these things." You can have great gratitude for these things but that is not what will cause you to feel loved.

I want to go so far as to explain in the measure of understanding the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the measure where you will feel loved, I want to explain that:

John 3:

16 For God so loved the world (Here John comes and says that God loved the world), **that he gave his only begotten Son** (So, God loved the world. So, what did the world do to move the hand of God? Nothing! They did absolutely nothing! The fact that they were lost moved God!

We have thought that in the measure where we leave our sin and repent of our sin, we are going to move the hand of God. I want to tell you that's not how it works, my friend! That is not how we define love. The only thing needed to move God is for you to be lost... for you to believe something wrong. Then God moves. If you ask me what will it take me to move, to do something on behalf of my children or to help them or to save them or to deliver them, what would it take from me? If my son is in a motor car accident, he doesn't have to call me! I must just find out about it and I move already.

If they just drive somewhere I would give them advice before they do anything. Whatever they do, if anything goes wrong, I'll move without them calling. I'll move. It is for them to believe in what I do in order to actually appropriate what I have done but, in order for me to move, I don't need anything from them. I don't need their prayer. I don't need their confession. I need nothing! In the same way God loved the world and while we were yet sinners, He gave His Son! How much more will He not, with Him, give us all things! So why would we go and think... you know why? Because we don't understand what it means to be loved by God.

John said, **God so loved the world** and now he is giving the reason why John felt that he was loved. If the Apostle John had to answer my Facebook post, what would he have written? I believe that he would have written. "God loves me because He has given His only begotten Son." And that wouldn't even be the real reason! The real reason is in the next verse: **so that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** He is actually saying, "God loved me so much that He made it possible for me to have immortality!" So, John's definition of love is connected in God wanting and making it possible for man to have eternal life. I want to say this: **17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.** Saved from what? Saved from death. He just called eternal life as what we would receive and now he is saying that we might be saved... saved from death.

What John is saying here is that God loved the world so much that He is granting man to have the very life of God... eternal life! I want to define eternal life not just as going to heaven. You have heard me say this before and watched this on television and if you don't know what I am talking about go to my website dynamicministries.com or Bertiebrits.com. You can listen to my many of my messages there explaining this... or... you can simply just ask God to explain to you what eternal life is.

Eternal life means the following: Eternal life means to live forever and never die. That's what it means. So, what does it mean if you don't have eternal life? It means you will not live forever and you will die. Eternal life means eternal existence inside the quality of God's life. Now, the problem has come in where we have defined how we have defined eternal life. We have made eternal life a very common thing. We've made eternal life so common that everything and everyone possesses it. That comes from the original lie which is of Satan where Satan has said, "Man cannot die!"

God said that you will die if you eat of the tree and the devil said, “No, no, no! You will not surely die but God knows that you are a self-existing one! God knows that you will be like Him. You will be a self-existing one. You have the ability to self-exist forever! You can live or self-exist forever! You don't need God to live forever! You don't need the life of God to give you life. You have eternal existence by yourself. You will not die!” That is exactly what Satan taught and we even believe that today. We have made eternal life so common that we teach it this way: You are going to live forever anyway! It just depends where you are going to live! You are either going to live in heaven or you are going to live in hell but you are going to live forever anyway!”

But that is not what the Bible teaches! Paul never taught that. Paul never taught that you can just live forever anyway. You must choose where you are going to live. No! The Apostle Paul taught, what John taught, was that you have the opportunity to live forever and that is what God has come to give us. We need to realize and I have hammered on this in many of my teachings but I want to preach this until I feel that the Church is grabbing a hold of this.

Eternal life, immortality, belongs to God alone. Eternal life, immortality, belongs to God alone. It's a very rare thing. Eternal life, you cannot find it anywhere. The only place you can find it is in one Being and that is God. No one else possess that... only God! You cannot find eternal life from an angel. You cannot find eternal life from a devil. You don't even have it by yourself. From the beginning God said, “Listen! By yourself you will just die but I want to give you eternal life!” And here we find that John places such a high value on eternal life that he defines and actually goes so far to say that God loses His breath over us! That is from *agape*, from the Hebrew word, that God loses His breath over us. He breathes after us. His mind comes to life when He thinks of us with plans to preserve our life because we are very beautiful. The reason why I say that is He wants to share with us which only He has and not with anything else. He is sharing it with us.

So, here was the Almighty God, the God that has no beginning and no end, that lives forever, and He says, “I am going to make it possible for a human to have what only I have!” That means and that communicates, love! I want to say that unless we can understand that eternal life is very scarce, it is not a common thing, it is not something that everybody inherently has, it is a gift! It is something that we can have when we believe upon Jesus. He says ***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son*** (only begotten Son does not mean Baby Jesus and we are going to look at that.) ***that whosoever believes in him should not perish (die), but have everlasting life*** (to be saved from perishing or dying or corruption and that they could live forever... exist forever inside the quality of God's life which is a life of love and mercy and kindness. That is what it is.

So, John's definition of love, or the reason why John says that he is loved by God, is the revelation that God has granted eternal existence to sinners. That means that He will not keep man as a sinner but those who believe upon Him will be delivered from sin, will be delivered from death, and live with God forever.

In other words, God so loved the world that He came to set man free from their sin. But, what we have heard was that Jesus died for us. He bled for us and look how much He loves us to the point that He was willing to suffer for us. But we don't understand why He suffered. The reason why He suffered is not what defines the love. The fact that Jesus died is not the only thing that shows that He loves us. It was what He tried to accomplish.

Let's say that my son gets a ticket. The other day he got a ticket. He got fined. He did not stop properly at the railroad track. In Africa we don't have all those boones, warning signals, at the railroad track. There is just a stop sign and he didn't stop completely, pull up the hand brake and drove away. He just slowly rolled over and then they gave him a two hundred fifty dollar fine for that. He is a student and he doesn't have the money to pay that. I'm going to pay that. Why am I paying that? Must he say, "My Dad loves me so much that he paid that." That's not why I am paying that. I am not paying because he has a debt. The reason why I pay that is because I want him with me and I don't want him in jail.

That's why I am paying that. He should say, "My Dad loves me so much that he would pay something to have me with him." Or, "My Dad loves me so much that he wants me with him." I don't want my son to say, "My Dad loves me because he bought me a car. My Dad loves me because he gave me money." No, I want him to say, "My Dad loves me because he wants me with him. He wants my presence!" That is what John was actually saying here. He was saying that God wanted the presence of man forever with Him and He wanted to put in man only what He possesses and unify him with Himself. That is what John is saying here.

1 John 3:

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God.

What is he saying here? He doesn't say, "Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we will never be persecuted for righteousness." Or, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we can be sure of great business deals." I cannot guarantee you business deals. I cannot. What I can guarantee you is that our God can give you contentment even if you just have clothes and a roof over your head. I can guarantee you that God, through His resurrection, can bring forth inside you a life that is so robust that no amount of poverty would be able to dictate to you what to do with whatever you have to the point that what happened to the poor churches in Macedonia. They, even above their ability, were generous out in the midst of the great poverty because of the magnitude of their liberality through the revelation of the resurrection of Jesus. That I can promise you!

I can promise you security inside the resurrection of Jesus but I cannot promise you that your business will always do. I mean, Peter comes to the rich and he says to the rich, because they knew that persecution was coming, "Let the rich minister to the poor and then when they lose everything, then those poor will help the rich again."

That's what he was saying. "No, Bertie, I don't want to hear this message because this is not true." Listen, go and ask God to show you why John said why Paul felt loved.

Paul suffered under robbers. The Bible says that. He said, "I've been in ship wrecks. I've been in this... I've been in that." I'm not saying to believe that will happen to you. It might never even happen to you. I've never suffered all the things the Apostle Paul suffered. I've never been beaten... well, that's not true! When I was in the University, there was a time when they put a bag over my head, as they did it over all the first year students there and then they beat me because I believe in Jesus. But I wasn't beaten like Paul was beaten. Yet, he felt loved by God. Why? Because John, who was boiled in oil and didn't die, said, "**Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:**

This is what a son means: to be equal with God to have eternal life, immortality. When Paul when wrote to Timothy, he said, "God is the only immortal." Now he says that those who seek that immortality, God will grant eternal life to them in Jesus. John says, "That is the love of God!" That's why He felt love.

I couldn't say this some years ago but now I can understand. I feel loved not because God sees me as a beautiful person. I feel loved by God because if someone, the only possessor of eternal life, immortality, comes and we as sinners did not believe upon Him, man, by his own works, tried to live by his own power and tried to make himself a god and did not love God or trust Him. If He looked at us in that state and says, "I want them. I will deliver them from sin and I will clean them up. I will give them the very life that only I have, the thing that is the scarcest thing that can be found. I will give them that!" That is defined as love! That is what is love and once that revelation settles in your heart you will feel loved for the first time! I want to tell you that! It is difficult to say that because many of us say, "I feel loved by God." I've walked this path. You know how much I have taught on the love of God and how loved I felt by God. But, as this revelation has dawned on me and I realize what bodily immortality is, when I realized that I am not a spirit but I am a human. When I realized that I, in my body, is granted eternal existence, which is not a given but a gift through Jesus that God made it possible, when I realized that I can actually completely die, and I can now have access to what only God has, I saw that as a gift and my mind said, I want to tell you, that I felt loved for the first time. My body felt loved.

I want to tell you that your body will not feel the emotion of love, you will not feel that God loses His breath over you, if you have to settle with, "Well, I am just going to die and my spirit is going to leave my body and I am just going to go to heaven and stay there forever with God." You are not going to feel loved because a very big part of you is body. If I take your physical brain out of your body, you are dead. You died. We've got this thing that the body just means nothing... until your daughter gets raped. Then all of a sudden, the body does mean something. Until someone wants to chop off your arm, then all of a sudden the body means something. Or, until your body gets cancer... my goodness you will spend everything.

When a child gets cancer, who says, "The body means nothing and he is just going to be with the Lord. Just let the body die and let the spirit be saved from this body and let the spirit move on." No one says that! No one in his right mind says that! Why? Intrinsicly inside us, we see the value of a complete human. But we have not preached eternal life. We preached, "going to heaven!" We have not preached eternal life and John comes and says, "**Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we** (as humans) **should** (might) **be called the sons of God...**" And Jesus was vindicated and shown to be a Son by the bodily resurrection. Alleluia!

Let me quickly read **John 3** again.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son

I've said this before but I want to say it again. Only begotten doesn't mean Baby Jesus and neither does it mean Jesus on the cross. Only begotten is defined by Paul in his teaching in Acts. I want to read that to you. Hear this:

Acts 13:

32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

33 God has fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he has raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, You are my Son, this day....

Let us read it again:

God has fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he raised up Jesus from the dead; as it is also written in the second psalm, You are my Son (Now he defines what Son means.) **You art my Son, this day have I begotten You.** When was Jesus begotten? He was begotten when He was raised from the dead.

Now, he says, **For God so loved the world, that he gave** (to the world) **his only begotten Son** (a physical, immortal human which can make intercession by His immortality for the mortals so that He can save them to the utmost which is to give them immortality, eternal existence, as physical beings. **THAT IS THE LOVE OF GOD!** That is why John said that God loves you. That is why he said, **Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us...**

He didn't say, "Behold what manner of love that God has bestowed upon us that I can have a very nice motor bike or car!"

No, **Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us....** that we, who were perishing and bodily dying, not having eternal existence, was granted the only eternal existence and quality of life there is which is God.

I want to say to you that you will feel loved by God but what John wrote here... I don't want to exclude you but I just want to speak the truth... what John wrote here, unless you see immortality as a gift, you will never be able to write this. You will say, "God loves me because He healed me. God loves me because He blessed my children. God loves me because of this... because of that..."

“Your definition of love will actually be defined as gratitude because what about the one who did not get healed of cancer? What about the one whose child died? What about the one who doesn't have a good house? What about the one who doesn't have what you have?”

I see that all the time. I look at people and I look at how God has prospered me financially. I just want to say this when it comes to financial prosperity: I have always seen myself as rich... always, because that is what contentment does! You don't see your lack. You are possessed with eternal strength through the resurrection of Jesus Christ and see no lack. You see what you have. I mean, I have walked in that and when I walk in that and I look at someone else that maybe doesn't have the car I have, that doesn't have the house I have. Do you know what? When I look at somebody who doesn't have a house, I can have compassion and I can help him but I don't have to walk with guilt anymore.

Neither do I have to live with a thing of, “What if that happens to you!” Well, do you know what? If that happens to me it might not be as comfortable as what it is now and that's true. It's very comfortable to go to the petrol station and fill up your car. It's very comfortable but let me tell you something. I will not feel less loved if I can only put in five dollars. I'm not going to feel less love because love is defined in the fact that I have eternal existence and eternal life! What I am doesn't yet appear but the day when He appears, what I am will appear and I will find that I am just like Him--- a physical, undying, immortal human being!

Paul went so far as not to even call the death of believers a death. He calls it sleep because he sees that they have eternal life. Glory to God! Isn't that powerful! Hear what I am saying. God has come and He has granted eternal life to you.

This is the foundation of a series of three that I am going to talk about the love of God because now, with this understanding, we can go and look at scriptures and see what they actually mean. Scriptures like:

“Nothing can separate me from the love of God.”

“Loving your neighbor”

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart”

“Even if you pray in tongues but you do not have love, you are nothing.”

What does that mean?

Now as we find a little bit of a change of definition and define the framework where John defines love and Paul as well, I didn't get to that scripture in **Romans 5 ... *the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts...***” That refers to the death and the resurrection of Jesus and the fact that we will be justified with the resurrection... immortality. He calls that the love of God. Because that shed abroad in our hearts, we find a certain life in us. What do all these things mean? You are going to start to understand 1Corinthians 13 in such a new way! Glory to God!

We have come to the end of this session. I want to say to you that God, emotionally, loves you! His emotional, intellectual feeling love towards you is shown in the fact that He says that the fullness of you is preserved forever in the resurrected Jesus. For God so loved the **world** that He moved and has given to the world a resurrected Human as the Intercessor. That means that as the end goal and the destination of those who believe upon Him, who don't live by their works but by the goodness of God, that they are granted eternal life exactly like Jesus! What will we be? We will be exactly like Him! Your grave will be empty of bones. Your physical body of this earth will be glorified meaning it becomes immortal yet physical. You will be just like the Jesus who appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus and the One that Stephen saw in his stoning and the very One that Mary saw at the grave, the One that the 500 saw when He appeared to more than 500 at one time, the very One that the disciples touched, their hands have handled.... that's what you would be like! That's what He granted you ---The fullness of God in a human body!

Behold how much God loves you that He granted the fullness of God to you, in a Human! Let me put it this way: Paul said it this way, "In Him you lack nothing for in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead BODILY!" The moment you start to see eternal life as **bodily** and that as a gift, your mind, your physical brain, will start to release chemicals that say, "You are loved by the Almighty God!" That's what it is all about! Amen and amen!

Father, thank You that I can minister to these people. They are loved by You, cared for by You and You smile over their lives! Amen