

# Trusting God Sunday School Series

## **Chapter 10: Experiencing God's Love**

**November 10, 2024**



Question 1: Does the Bible teach that God loves those of us who are in Christ?

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Question 2: If yes, does it **always** seem that way?





For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and 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.

(Ephesians 3:14-19 , NASB95, emphasis mine)





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(Lamentations 3:21-23 , NASB95)

# Outline

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## 1. God's love in discipline

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**2. God's unfailing love**



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**2. God's unfailing love**

**3. God's presence with us**

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**2. God's unfailing love**

**3. God's presence with us**

**4. Application questions**

# God's love in discipline

And not only this, but we also **exult in our tribulations**, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God has been poured out within our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

(Romans 5:3-5 , NASB95, emphasis mine)

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- We often only see God's love through our happiness

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- We often only see God's love **through our happiness**
- However, we should also see God's love through His work of **conforming us to Christ** e.g. discipline, sanctification

and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; **FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.**"

(Hebrews 12:5-6 , NASB95, emphasis mine)

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**Discipline is painful**

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- What about Romans 8:28? All things work together for good?
  - Biscuit baking analogy on page 150 of the book
  - Individual ingredients may not be tasteful by themselves
  - However, they are enjoyed when mixed together and baked



# God's love in discipline

**Discipline and personal sin**

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## Discipline and personal sin

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- Does more discipline imply greater personal sin?
  - No, there are many examples of relatively Christlike people experiencing extreme adversity.
  - e.g. Job, Joseph
  - Jesus Himself underwent discipline and never sinned

Although He was a Son, He **learned obedience** from the **things which He suffered**.

(Hebrews 5:8 , NASB95, emphasis mine)

# God's unfailing love

For if He causes grief, then He will have compassion according to **His abundant lovingkindness**.

(Lamentations 3:32 , NASB95, emphasis mine)

“For the **mountains may be removed** and the hills may shake, But **My lovingkindness will not be removed from you**, And My covenant of peace will not be shaken,” Says the LORD who has compassion on you.

(Isaiah 54:10 , NASB95, emphasis mine)

- God's unfailing love is repeated throughout Scripture. How do we experience it in our daily lives?

# God's unfailing love

## God's gracious daily provision

- e.g. Daily provision of manna for Israel in the wilderness

“Moses said to them, “Let no man leave any of it until morning.” But they did not listen to Moses, and some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them. They gathered it morning by morning, every man as much as he should eat; but when the sun grew hot, it would melt.”

(Exodus 16:19-21, NASB95, emphasis mine)

# God's unfailing love

## God's gracious daily provision

- e.g. Asking for daily bread

Give us this day our **daily** bread.  
(Matthew 6:11, NASB95, emphasis mine)

- Can you think of some daily needs that God has faithfully provided for you?

# God's unfailing love

## God's daily grace through adversity

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me **a thorn in the flesh**, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you**, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

(2 Corinthians 12:7-9, NASB95, emphasis mine)

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- We get anxious/frustrated when God doesn't give us all the grace at once for our problems
- We should expect and trust God for His faithful provision of grace

# God's unfailing love

## Need for gratitude/contentment

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; **in everything give thanks**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, NASB95, emphasis mine)

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- God's love is magnified when He provides comfort/relief for us in times of affliction
- We ought to develop an attitude of thanksgiving even in difficult times
- Helps us to recognize God's faithful and gracious provision
- Gratitude is not only appropriate, but also beneficial for us



# God's presence with us

“When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you**; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you.

(Isaiah 43:2, NASB95, emphasis mine)

“It is often in the very midst of our adversities that we experience the most delightful manifestations of His love.” Bridges, pg 153-154

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**In all their affliction He was afflicted**, And the angel of His presence saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old.

(Isaiah 63:9, NASB95, emphasis mine)

God does not merely send us grace from a distance. He Himself comes alongside us and is with us in our troubles.

# God's presence with us

## Christ identifies with us in our distress

and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, **why are you persecuting Me?**" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,  
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- Christ's people are in union with Him
- Christ shares in our affliction and sympathizes with us

For we do not have a high priest who cannot **sympathize** with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.  
(Hebrews 4:15, NASB95, emphasis mine)

# God's presence with us

## Indwelling of the Spirit

that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because **He abides with you** and **will be in you**.  
(John 14:17, NASB95, emphasis mine)

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will **guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.  
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- The Holy Spirit dwells in us
- The Holy Spirit guides us according to God's truth found in **His Word**

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For the choir director. A Psalm of David. **How long, O LORD?** Will You forget me forever? How long will You **hide Your face** from me?  
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My soul **waits in silence** for God only; From Him is my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.  
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- The Psalms model for us how we ought to **cry out** to God and **wait for Him** in our affliction

# God's presence with us

Psalm 13 (NASB95):

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

1How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?

How long will You hide Your face from me?

2How long shall I take counsel in my soul,

Having sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

3Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;

Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

4And my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"

And my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.

5But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness;

My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

6I will sing to the LORD,

Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

# Application

- When have you doubted God's love, what has helped you regain your confidence in His love?
- Has there been a time when it was especially important for you to focus on God's daily grace without looking ahead? What happened when you tried to look down the road to see how you would cope tomorrow?
- What can we do to remind one another of God's love for us?

Questions?