

The Secret of His Love - Reflections on Trusting God

Speaker Carol Helland

You will keep him in perfect peace.

Whose mind is stayed on You,

*Because he *trusts in You.*

~Isaiah 26: 3

***Trust:** to have confidence; to lean on; to believe

Trust is our response to God's character and love.

In Psalm 25: 14 David wrote: "The *secret of the LORD is to those who fear Him."

The word *"secret" means "the friendship," as in "confidential intimacy."

And the word "fear" means "loving respect for our kind and gracious God . . . to stand in awe of the LORD because of the greatness of His grace and love toward us."

What secrets God has to tell us and permitted His children to learn! If we take what He sends us and trust Him, we learn His secrets—great and wonderful.

I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ~John 15: 15

Our times are in His hands—
our early, middle, and later years.
No time is greater than another,
For all our years work together
in God's faithful plan for our lives.
~Roy Lessin

To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry; nor would the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

~Frederick M. Lehman

Five Foundational Principles on Trusting God

- #1: The Gospel reminds me daily of God's grace and love.
- #2: We think we know what a good God should do.
- #3: God is good and always good.
- #4: You can't trust a God you don't know.
- #5: This moment is a preparation for our eternal life in Christ

#1: The Gospel reminds me daily of God's grace and love.

We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus might be manifested in our body.

For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh."

~II Corinthians 4: 8-10

The Transforming Power of Grace

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast. ~Ephesians 2: 8-9

For He [God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. ~II Corinthians 5: 21

That's **justification** . . . a new standing before God—further evidence of God's love for you.

Casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you. ~I Peter 5: 7

J. Vernon McGee wrote in his book Living by Faith: "The believer is in the University of God. And one of the first lessons is on the subject of faith—namely, the testing of faith through trials. But trouble is not given to us for trouble's sake; it is never an end in and of itself. God always has a reason for testing us. He has a high and lofty goal in view."

"Calvary is the secret of it all. It is what Jesus Christ did there that counts and what He did becomes a force in the life of a Christian when it is appropriated by faith. This is the starting point from which all Godly living must take its rise. We shall never know the experience of Christ's victory in our lives until we are prepared to count (reckon) upon His victory at the Cross as **the secret** of our personal victory today. There is no victory for us which was not first His."

~ Miles J. Stanford, *The Complete Green Letters*, p. 48.

The Transforming Power of the Gospel

*For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to you who are being saved it is **the power of God**.* ~I Corinthians 1: 18

The Transforming Power of His Resurrection

The apostle Paul wrote . . . *that I may know Him, and **the *power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.*** ~Philippians 3: 10 *The power of God means "dynamo" (*dunamis*), like "dynamite."

God's Transforming Power in Our Lives

Progressive Sanctification: "being set apart to God"—our spiritual growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Quite often, however, God's Power in our lives is usually quiet and steady—it's an inner Power through the Holy Spirit, evidenced by the strength to endure in the midst of adversity and the unknown, even when the trial is long.

For it takes God's Power to be a forgiving spouse; a loving parent; a caregiver to a parent or child; a grieving wife; to face disappointment with a friend; to be a compassionate employee to an unreasonable supervisor; to wait upon the Lord.

Father, help me to see not as I see, but as You see.

*I pray also that **the eyes of your heart** may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably **great power** for us who believe. That **power** is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead.*

Read: ~Ephesians 1: 18-19 & II Peter 1: 3-9

The Transforming Power of God's Word

You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. ~II Corinthians 3: 2-3

The Transforming Power of His Love

*As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My *love.*

~John 15: 9

*The Greek word "agape" (love) most expresses Christ-like love.

Agape love is the Fruit of the Spirit. ~Galatians 5: 22

God the Father has the same love for you that He has for His Son.

Make your home in His love as He draws you into a relationship with Him.

***I John: "A Family Letter"**

God's love is personal and active, yet selfless, motivated by the Spirit of God to love others expecting nothing in return. God's love transforms us. It is the **"love of God which is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us."** ~Romans 5: 5

*"The Epistle of John . . . is a family letter from the Father to His "little children" who are in the world. With the possible exception of the Song of Solomon, it is the most intimate of the inspired writings. John's Gospel leads across the threshold of the Father's house; his first Epistle makes us at home there. . . John has in mind the believer's nearness as one born of the Father." [The Scofield Study Bible NKJV, p. 1703; KJV, p. 1321.]

Christ's Love Is Shared: Read I John 4: 9-11 & I John 3: 16.

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ~I John 3: 16

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." ~John 13: 34

A Spirit-controlled heart serves others. Only the Holy Spirit can generate motivation in the heart of a believer to love in this capacity. God the Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit, the first of which is love.

Triumph in Christ

*Now thanks be to God who **always** leads us in triumph ***in Christ**.*

~II Corinthians 2: 14a

In all these things we are more than conquerors

through Him who loved us. ~Romans 8: 27

*Our victory to live the Christian life is "in Christ." Whenever you see "**in Christ**," remind yourself that you have that position because of God's love for you.

Reflection Question: What are "all these things" in your life in which Christ has made you more than a conqueror because of His love for you?

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin.
O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.
~a hymn by Frederick M. Lehman (1917)

Study Questions in I John

1. "God is love," and, as such, it is not a question of the fitness or worthiness of the object of His love. Love is Who He is. He is love. Read I John 4:16 and write the entire verse:
2. Love is not only revealed to us in the Word of God, but it was also revealed on the Cross, where Christ died for us. "God is love" is not simply a doctrine in the Bible. It is an eternal fact demonstrated at Calvary. How was God's love manifested? Read and write the verse: I John 4: 9-10.
3. The outcome of God's love enables you to be called _____ . Read I John 3: 1.
4. Why should believers love one another? Read I John 2: 10-11 & 4: 11.
5. Why do we love God? Read and write the verse: I John 4: 19.
6. How is God's love perfected in us? Read and write the verse: I John 2:5.
7. If the believer is filled with the love of the Father, she will not _____ . Read I John 2: 15.

Reflection Questions

8. How often do you think about God's love *for you* in the Gospel?

9. How does God's love *for you* in Christ impact your daily life?

10. Are you thrilled with God's love *for you*?