

3. A. COMMUNION WITH GOD THE FATHER

The chief and most important way in which we, the regenerate, have communion with God the Father, is love - free, undeserved and eternal.

Unfortunately, for so many people, they see God as a God of wrath and anger against sin. But this is the view of the unsaved towards God, for we see in JN 3:16 that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son" And this was to show that God has given of Himself freely, of His love, sacrificing on the cross, that which was most precious to His heart.

But in the gospel, God is revealed especially as love. A supreme, unmerited encompassing love. And this is also especially demonstrated by God, in the giving to us of His most Blessed Son.

This gracious love of God was made manifest in Paul's epistle to the EPHESIANS 1: 4-6. This love of God for His people was declared before the creation of the world, where we were predestined unto salvation. In II COR 13:14 "May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all". It is by the fellowship of the Holy Spirit that we have fellowship with Christ in Grace, and with the Father in love.

For us to doubt the love of God for us, is to God the greatest sorrow and burden. It is the greatest unkindness to God for us not to believe that He loves us.

This love that God has for us, has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom God has sent into our hearts to seal them unto salvation ROM 5:5 (When we pour something, it is usually the dispensing of generous amounts). And this is the reaction of our heavenly Father towards us.

In God, there are two sorts of love. The first is His love of good pleasure and His determination to do good. And secondly, it is His love of friendship and His acceptance of those that seek Him. It was of His love to do good that He sent His only Son to die for sinners and it was of His love of friendship and acceptance that He sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

The seal of the Holy Spirit in our hearts is a very important aspect of God's love for us, for without His presence in our hearts we would not be able to resist the attacks of the evil one in our lives, and we would fall away - like the seed sown on the rocky ground, or amongst the thorns.

We are therefore to recognize the love of God in our hearts, as the source of all other acts of God's grace in us. Grace, the unmerited favour of God towards us. Although we might question God's love for us, we usually accept our Master's love unquestionably. But we are to look at the Father's love for us as the source and fountain of ALL those loves that flow into our lives. It was God who sent His beloved Son, it was God, through the Lord Jesus, who sent His Spirit to indwell us.

There are many instances in scripture where God compares Himself to a father, who loves His children. e.g., PSM 103:13, ISA 66:13 & MAL 1:6

If we are to have communion with the Father in love, we must receive the love of the Father, and we must show gratitude and love to the Father. This is because communion and fellowship lie in the giving and receiving. We are to receive the love of the Father in faith, and that is to believe that God the Father does love us. The love of God the Father is to be believed because He is the source and essence of love itself.

Now, the way to God the Father, and to the throne of Grace is through Jesus Christ **JN 14:6** "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" So it is through Christ that we have access and acceptance with the Father. Jesus is the channel through which all love of God comes through to us, and all response from ourselves goes back to the Father. All this we receive by faith.

Many dark and disturbing thoughts arise to hinder our walk with God. We live far below in the troublesome storms of fear. How do we rise up to the Father's love? This is what Christ came to do, because He is the only way. The response that God looks for in us is love to Him.

MATT 22:37 "Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" When we see God as love, then we have communion with the Father.

We cannot love something we fear. It all begins in God's love for us, and our response to Him in appreciation and gratitude of what He has done for us as a loving Father.

Through the sacrifice and cleansing blood of Christ, all reason for God to be angry with us and treat us as enemies has been taken away.

It all begins in the love of God and ends in our love to Him. This is in faith, the ground of all acceptable obedience.