

God Calls You His Beloved

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Warm words, comforting embraces, and kind looks can do so much for people. It should come as no surprise to us as Christians that God reveals the warmth of His heart toward us through His Word and His Spirit.

Throughout the Bible, God calls His people “beloved”—a word translated as “darling.” Regardless of where we have been or what we have done, God always sees us as His “darlings.” Failure doesn’t change this truth. He remains faithful and just to forgive us and ready to cleanse us.

In 1 Corinthians 13, the Father declared that “charity suffereth long” and “beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things” (see verses 4, 7). “Charity never faileth” (1 Corinthians 13:8). The love of God never fails.

This booklet reveals a measure of the depth of God’s love, which prompted Him to send

Jesus Christ to the cross to die for the sins of the world. These words will show us that we are truly beloved, darlings of the King of kings.

Chapter One

DRAWING OUT
THE LIFE WITHIN

During the winter, trees can look so bare and lifeless, but inside they have more life than in the spring and summer when they are outwardly beautiful. All they need is a little warmth, and the life that is in them comes out.

The Bible says much about trees. The blessed man who delights and meditates in the words of the LORD day and night “shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalm 1:3).

“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither

shall cease from yielding fruit" (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

In Mark 8:23-25, Jesus spat on the eyes of a blind man. At first, the man said, "I see men as trees, walking." Again, Jesus put His hands on his eyes and "he was restored, and saw every man clearly."

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

At the center of the Garden is the precious Tree of Life, which speaks of Calvary. God keeps referring to trees and their life within. In the winter, there is life in the tree. That life comes out when the weather becomes warm. A little warmth brings out life in a tree, and that is how it is with people, too. In practically every person, there is something that can be brought out—all they need is warmth.

Warmth Opens Doors

I remember a lady who did not like my preaching, so she stopped coming to church. I set out to draw her back and began knocking on her door.

At first, she just refused to answer. Then, she came to the door, saying, "I am *not* coming to your church."

“That’s obvious,” I responded. “But can’t we come in just to talk with you?”

“No, you can’t.” And with that she shut the door.

A month later, I went back, and her response was the same. But then, things started to happen. I heard that this woman had become sick, so I went to her home with flowers. This time she let us in, and she started to weep. Soon she came back to church, faithfully attending every service and loving the preaching.

A little warmth was all it took to bring life out of that lady.

Any pastor can build a church if he really loves people and is truly sensitive to their needs. What a pastor really has to do is reveal the warmth of God’s love.

Godly Creativity Brings Results

In our town, there was a giant of a carpenter who lived all alone in a house he built himself. He was nearly six and a half feet tall, and most people steered clear of him.

I took our tallest deacon with me and went knocking on this carpenter’s door.

“I have been waiting for you,” he told me. “I know you have all kinds of people coming to

your church, but I don't like your church—and I don't like you."

I asked him if he had any use for God.

He replied, "I don't have any use for someone who doesn't exist."

This seemed like a tough case. You hope a person at least believes in something. I noticed that he was extremely proud of the house he had built, so I said, "Sir, you did *not* build this house."

"I did so!" the man fired back.

"No, you didn't," I continued. "You woke up one morning and here you were in this great house. It just happened, without the work of any designer or builder. It just happened—the same way those so-called scientists say the mountains sprung up on their own. All the lakes and forests and valleys, I suppose none of them had a Creator either. All of them just appeared one day, just like this house appeared one day."

I had his attention. Even though he was much bigger, and I was somewhat fearful, I boldly told him, "You are going to get saved today. I have made up my mind that you *will* accept Jesus Christ."

He just laughed at me. But then I went on to describe certain certainties in the Bible—claims

God made in His Word thousands of years ago that even science has proven to be true. I joked with him about how obvious it is that we all came from the dust of the earth, as stated in Genesis 2:7. I backed that claim with solid evidence that the elements that comprise common soil are the same elements found in humans. We spent more than two hours with him. After much humor, fun, and creativity—not to mention the prayers of people in the church—this giant of a man came to Jesus Christ.

When he got up before the church to testify of his salvation, everyone stood and clapped. He just needed some good old-fashioned love.

Look at the trees during the spring and summer. There is life going out of them. But while these trees are waiting for their time to flower and bear fruit, the life is all contained inside. The sunshine releases that life for all to enjoy. In the same way, God's love brings life to a lost soul who only needs to receive it.

Chapter Two

SEEING OUR ETERNAL VALUE

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when we shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (John 3:1-2).

“Beloved” is a very special word God often uses for His people. Benjamin was called “beloved” in Deuteronomy 33:12. Paul and Barnabas are called “beloved” in Acts 15:25. Psalm 127:2 says that He “gives his beloved sleep.”

“Beloved” means “darling.” In other words, God regards us as His tenderhearted ones. He esteems us very highly because of our eternal value. We are precious in His sight.

God sees us and says, “You are my beloved,

I just want to give you some warmth. It doesn't appear yet what you are going to be, but when you see Me, you will be just like Me."

The Father always sees each of us as being inside the Son; therefore, He views us as cleansed, purged, and complete, saying, "You are My beloved, My darling, My tenderhearted ones."

"I really don't feel tenderhearted" you may be tempted to think. But God knows what you will become. He sees what you are becoming through grace and through His warmth and love.

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering" (Colossians 3:12).

Manifest Mercy and Grace

We are precious and tenderhearted—His darlings. God wants us to put on emotions that manifest His mercy. Mercy is in action when we don't receive the judgment we really deserve. By grace, God freely gives us what we don't deserve. God doesn't want our emotions to endure what we deserve because we are His beloved.

There is a teenager I know who was going

through a hard time. I befriended him, wrote notes to him every week, and made him my friend. He wasn't doing well in school, but all he needed was to be loved. He needed the warmth of God when he did not deserve it. He has come through it all amazingly well.

God calls us "beloved" even though we do not deserve it. Without even realizing it, we are becoming perfect through Christ. We will be like Him when we see Him as He is. He will perfect us (Philippians 1:6). He has begun a good work in us and will perform it, for we are His beloved—His darling—hid with Christ in God. It doesn't matter what you have done or when you did it: God calls you "beloved."

Just thank Him that you are.

Chapter Three

LOVE THAT KNITS SOULS

“And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father’s house.

“Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle” (1 Samuel 18:1-4).

In 1 Samuel 18:1, Jonathan was knit in friendship to David, and “he loved him as his own soul.” God was between these men all the time (1 Samuel 20:23, 42). Jonathan loved David, and his friendship was given as a gift from God. No one could have caused this kind of love in themselves. This was a gift of God.

David needed Jonathan's love because King Saul, Jonathan's father, was after him. David desperately needed someone who would love him. Jonathan's name in Hebrew is *Yownathan*, meaning "God has given." David means "beloved." God declared, "David, you are My darling. You are esteemed, you are precious, you are highly loved by Me." That is the way it was throughout David's life. Jonathan was given to David as a gift, and Jonathan loved David as his own soul.

True Body life is like this when people get to know the Finished Work and walk in the Spirit. Yes, we fail and rebound, but when we fall in love with God and are filled with the Holy Spirit, we can love each other as we love our own souls. We become God's gifts to each other. We can stand with each other.

Esteeming Others

Saul didn't understand this kind of love. He became so crazed that he was about to kill Jonathan because he tasted honey on a day when Saul ordered that no soldier was to eat (1 Samuel 14:24-45). Jonathan was a great military man, very skilled with the bow and arrow. David called him a fighter who was swift "as an eagle"

(2 Samuel 1:23). Jonathan was speedy and strong.

A great part in this story is when Jonathan gave his robe to David and said, "I want you to be king." It was the greatest thing he could have given. The royal robe was now David's. More than that, Jonathan also gave away his sword, his bow, and his girdle (1 Samuel 18:4), lifting up David in military rank and office.

"You are too young right now," Jonathan was telling David. "You don't have the armor you need. So I am giving you everything that I have, and I lift you up in rank, position, and military privilege." Jonathan loved David as his own soul.

"Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do it for thee" (1 Samuel 20:4).

Isn't this what Jesus did for us? He gave us eternal life; He forgave us forever, and He came to live inside of us. He did ninety-five things for us at the moment of salvation, before we even finished saying the prayer! He will never forsake us, and He guarantees that we will be perfect when we see Him as He is. Oh, what God's love can do for a person.

The quality of God's love brings deliverance. I have a letter from a woman who heard this

phrase in a message: “Everyone has fantastic value with God.” She believed those words and said, “Just like that, the Holy Spirit gave me victory in an area where I never had victory before.”

Jonathan put David’s welfare and needs ahead of his own. He wanted David to be the hero and to be honored. This was God’s plan. Jonathan, a great warrior, loved his father Saul, and fought beside him to the end of the final battle in which both died. As much as he loved his father, however, Jonathan would not surrender truth to stand up for a man who had murder in his mind.

One of the great things children can do is love their parents according to truth. Parents, too, need to love their children and give them God’s warmth. Brothers and sisters need to give each other the warmth of God. We are filled with the Holy Spirit, and then by His love, which is shed abroad in our hearts, He does the work and we become gifts to each other through the gift of the Spirit.

Nothing Can Separate Us from Him

God is our light and our salvation, we have nothing to fear (Psalm 27:1). It is a beautiful thing that we have today—forgiveness and

cleansing from God. Each of us has a great potential for victory in areas we thought impossible. All we have to do is listen for the tender voice of God saying, “My darling.”

When we see “beloved” in the Scriptures, remember it is God saying “My darling” to us. He esteems us as precious and tenderhearted. We are so special to Him. Oh, how He longs for us to know how much He esteems us.

Go through the Scriptures and look at every verse with “beloved” in it. By the time you are through, you will feel like a spiritual billionaire. God doesn’t wait until we are perfect—any child of His is “darling” to Him. He loved the lost so much, He went to the Cross and died on our behalf. We are very, very special to God.

These examples—Jonathan’s love for David and Jesus’ love for John and for us—clearly reveal that we are beloved, the darlings of God.

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

There isn’t a single thing that can separate us from the love of God. This passage mentions

nothing about the past. In heaven's eyes, the past is gone, except for the fragrance of godly memories. Reference is made to the present and the future, but nothing is said of what went on before. God's work is different from some psychiatrists' who search out things in people's pasts to uncover the root of troubles today. The Father doesn't get into the past, He just gets into His love now.

CONCLUSION

We are here in Satan's world as ambassadors of Jesus Christ to reveal His love. He gives us His protection and provision. He gives us love that cannot be separated from us. We have the Finished Work; and by the grace of God, we can become something we never thought we could be, beyond our expectation. Most of us don't realize how great His love for us is. If you are backslidden today, you are just a confession away from coming back and going on with God. The joy of being forgiven as a Christian will be yours.

Thank God that He calls us "beloved." In a world full of hate, robbery, and thievery, we are God's darlings. Stealing, broken vows, immorality, sentimentality, and self-centeredness cannot change the fact that we are highly esteemed and precious to Jesus Christ.

David proclaimed that "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in

their death they were not divided” (2 Samuel 1:23). Even though Saul was backslidden and hunted David to kill him, David still put Saul right beside Jonathan as “lovely.” That is God’s love, and this same love goes out of each of us. This isn’t a love we can work up or earn; this is a love that comes from the Holy Spirit. It is a love that recognizes that we are “beloved.”

Father, may each of us understand how You think of us. May we personally believe that we are truly beloved. Let us see what you believe about us and what we are becoming as Your darlings even now. We ask that Your love be manifested in each life. In Christ’s name, Amen.