

# What's Love Got To Do With It (Part 2)

April 25, 2026

Last week we looked at God's love for us (**4 points**)

- His love is unconditional
- His acceptance is conditional
- His love is durable
- His love doesn't depend on positive circumstances

## **Ephesians 3:16–19 – Today's Theme Scripture**

*"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."*

- a) This love God has for us is 4 dimensional
  - 1) Wide
  - 2) Long
  - 3) High
  - 4) Deep
- b) God's Goal in this love is
  - a. That we be filled to the measure of
  - b. All the fullness of God
- c) Tough to comprehend
  - a. **The fullness of God !!!**
  - b. WOW

TODAY WE WILL DELVE INTO SOME OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US

- i. God's love has given us **AN HONORED POSITION**

### **1 John 3:1-2**

*"How great is the love the Father has lavished (**Greek: gloriously given**) on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."*

- a. We have become a family member
- b. As children we have family privileges
- c. My children have certain privileges that other people don't
  - 1) They have my name

- 2) My reputation
- 3) Entitled to all that I own

**Romans 8:15–16**

*“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”*

d. God is our Father

- 1) ABBA an affectionate term – Daddy
- 2) Kind of **hard to fathom** – we can call God: DADDY!
- 3) Unlike our earthly fathers
  - a) Who have many faults
  - b) Can easily disappoint us
  - c) **Not** understand us
  - d) Sometimes even abuse us

**Ephesians 3:12**

*“In him (Jesus) and through faith in him (Jesus) we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”*

- 4) As a Daddy, we can approach Him
- 5) Remember **Isaiah 59:1-2**

*“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”*

- 6) **Not** only is He now accessible to us
  - a) (The Blood of Jesus opened the door to this relationship)
  - b) Because we are **no** longer accountable for our sins
    - a. Jesus carried that burden on the cross
    - b. we have the **freedom to talk with him** anytime/anywhere we like
    - c. As a Father, **He hears everything** we say
    - d. He will **never** turn away from us
    - e. He actually **delights** in us – Warts and all

**Psalm 147:10–11**

*“His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear him,*

*who put their hope in his unfailing love.”*

e. Jesus even makes this point

**Mark 3:31–35**

*“Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.” “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”*

- 1) What a thought
- 2) **Brothers** with the Son of God – Jesus
- 3) We become part of a very powerful family
- 4) It is a family far greater than the family we were born into
- 5) This family survives death – into eternity

ii. God’s love **GIVES US EVERYTHING WE NEED**

**2 Peter 1:3–4**

*“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”*

- 1) We lack nothing
- 2) He generously gave us the Bible
- 3) It has **Everything we need** is in the Bible

**2 Timothy 3:16–17**

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

**4) Take the Bible away**

- a) We know **nothing** about God
  - a. Other than
    - i. Intuition
    - ii. Observation
    - iii. Trial and Error
    - iv. Whatever standard we feel comfortable with
    - v. There are no absolutes
  - b. Jesus is lost in history

- i. **No** record of what he taught
  - ii. **No** record of his personal life
  - iii. **No** record of how the church began
  - iv. How to reconcile our sins
  - v. What constitutes righteousness
  - vi. **Wouldn't** even know if there is a heaven or hell.
- iii. God's love **GIVES US COURAGE**

### ILLUSTRATION

One summer night during a severe thunderstorm a mother was tucking her small son into bed. She was about to turn the light off when he asked in a trembling voice, "Mommy, will you stay with me all night?" Smiling, the mother gave him a warm, reassuring hug and said tenderly, "I can't dear. I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence followed. At last, it was broken by a shaky voice saying, "*The big sissy!*"

- a. That is funny but - **fear is a reality**.
- b. God wants us to walk in courage
  - 1) **not** wallow in fear.
  - 2) If you follow Jesus close enough and long enough
    - a) eventually you will come face to face with:
      - a. rude, unkind and hostile
        - i. people
        - ii. situations
        - iii. and problems
        - iv. bigger than you.
  - 3) Often things that appear
    - a) beyond our ability
      - a. to deal with
    - b) cause us to an overwhelming sense of **fear**.

### ILLUSTRATION

*"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it."* — Nelson Mandela

- c. WHAT CAUSES FEAR THEN?
  - 1) **When we replace God's revelation**
    - a) **with our imagination**

**Numbers 13:31-33** (when Moses sent spies to investigate the Promised Land)

They came back and reported: *"We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are."* And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had

explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

- b) God told them
  - a. He had already given them
  - b. that land
- c) When God tells us to do something
  - c. we **don’t** face any challenge with our **own strength**.

#### **Matthew 10:18–20**

*“On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”*

#### **When Joshua actually is told by God – GO TAKE THAT SAME LAND**

##### **Joshua 1:6–9**

*“Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

- a) Courage is **not** ignoring the obstacles
- b) It is **obeying God** when we **can’t** yet see the results!!

#### **2) When we replace God’s revelation**

- a) **with our understanding**
- b) Human understanding will **not** BUILD AN ARK
  - a. when there has **never been** rain!
- c) Human understanding will **not** CROSS AN EGYPTIAN RIVER
  - a. when apparently
  - b. there **isn’t** a bridge to cross it!
- d) Human understanding will **not** generously give financially
  - a. when God says give,
- e) Human understanding will **not** share their faith
  - a. When people seem disinterested

- b. when God says go make disciples.
- f) Human understanding will feel safe
  - a. When God says, “**Don’t** worry, I’ve got this”

**2 Kings 6:15–17**

*“When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh, my lord, what shall we do?” the servant asked. “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes so he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”*

- g) Let me reiterate:
  - a. God will **never** put us into a situation
    - i. **without** giving us
      1. the strength
      2. or resources
      3. to accomplish what He asks.

**Hebrews 13:20–21**

*“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

d. YOU NEED COURAGE **because**

- 1) God has a **plan**
- 2) and **purpose** for you
  - a) in life,
  - b) in your family,
  - c) in this church.

iv. God’s Love **COMES WITH REWARDS**

**Matthew 7:9–11**

*“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”*

**1 John 5:14–15**

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”*

- a. **Not only** does God want to give us good things
- b. He is capable of giving us anything He wants
  - 1) There are absolutely **no** limitations to what He can give us.
  - 2) However, He **won't** give us anything that would
    - a) Hurt us
    - b) Hinder our spiritual growth
    - c) Or **not** contribute to the plans he has for us

**Jeremiah 29:11**

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

- 3) He wants to **impart** to us
  - a) Hope
  - b) A future
- 4) These are two things many people **struggle with**
  - a) **Look at their life** and are **hopeless**
    - a. Caught in a maze of hurt,
    - b. despair,
    - c. sadness
    - d. A life **without** purpose
  - b) Hard to see a **future**
    - a. Still part of a rat-race
    - b. Future looks bleak
    - c. What will be different
      - i. 10, 20, 30 years from now
- c. When God gives, He gives in generous portions

**Deuteronomy 28:12**

*“The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none.”*

**Psalms 65:4-5**

*Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!*

*We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.*

*You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior*

**Mark 10:29–30**

*“I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.”*

**James 1:5**

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”*

God wants us to know how wide and long and high and deep is **His love for us**,

1. God’s love has given us **AN HONORED POSITION**
2. God’s love **GIVES US EVERYTHING WE NEED**
3. God’s love **GIVES US COURAGE**
4. God’s Love **COMES WITH REWARDS**

What’s Love Got To Do With It?

**EVERYTHING!**