



Day One: His Presence Was in the Wilderness

There were times when I'd hear stories about other people experiencing the Presence of God and I'd feel disappointed that it wasn't my experience. But then I realised the key – it's simply believing what He says!

The Kingdom of God operates through faith and all I did was change my perception by choosing to believe that He wanted me to experience His Presence, rather than believing the theologies which had been made up by other people to explain why they weren't experiencing His Presence. We get what we believe! This means we can all be a 'Whosoever' and choose to believe the same thing! God truly does want you to know and experience His love, so that you can believe it above everything else in the world that tries to tell you otherwise.

Another 'experience theology' that had kept me from pursuing God's Presence through the years was the explanation of the wilderness season. The story goes that we, just like the Israelites, will all walk through a wilderness season, which feels dry and weary and in which it will be difficult to hear the voice of God. That He is drawing back so that we will draw closer and closer to Him, and that He's testing our level of commitment and devotion to pursuing Him.

Really? My Bible says in James 4:8 *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you (NKJV)*. Not that He will draw away from you, trying to lure you into a deeper pursuit of Him, or that He will only draw near to you after you've gone through a hard and lonely wilderness season in which you can't possibly expect to hear His voice and one day it will all end and suddenly He will come alive to you.

It's amazing that we believe this stuff! And I once held onto this theology with all of my heart because I felt like it explained away what I wasn't experiencing and gave me hope for a future when I'd finally 'get there' (wherever 'there' was). Why do we make it so complicated when it really is oh so simple?



Yes, it can sometimes feel challenging in the time period in which we come alive to God's promises but we are going through the process of coming out of the kingdom of the world and learning how to live victoriously in the Kingdom of God. However we can also choose to see this as an adventure and realise that throughout it all, there is no time in which God says that we are not incredibly loved, or that we can't access His Spirit or His Presence.

I was pondering the 'wilderness theology' recently and asked the Lord about it. What He spoke to my heart was immediate and profound and I wrote it down right away. This is what He said:

The wilderness is rubbish! There was no wilderness for Moses. My Presence was ever available. He and Joshua accessed it and to them, they were walking through desert but their communion with me was so rich, it never felt like a wilderness. It was only those who chose not to enter into the veil within the tent of meeting who didn't enjoy My Presence every day of the 40 years. And they could have experienced victory on the 11th day!

What we receive is dependent on what we believe. Let us know and BELIEVE the Love God has for us...

Soak Time

If you have felt like you've been in a wilderness, do you now know that you don't have to stay there?

How will you choose to know and believe the Love God has for you?



Day Two: Soak in His Love

To know and believe the love God has for us. Do you realise that this is as deep as it gets? Most people don't understand just how profound this is to their lives. We are a body of people who always seems to be looking for the next important piece of knowledge. It's like this constant quest to find the next revelation so that we can finally discover how to get our lives or work and the promises to come to pass. We hear some information taught to us and think, "OK, yep, got that. Check. Now what's next?"

We think we are walking in revelation, but all we are walking in is information. And information only becomes revelation when it influences our hearts and our sense of who we are – it must change our identity to be revelation.

While we sometimes will receive a revelation instantaneously, it usually comes out of a period of dwelling on God's Word in a certain area of our lives, imagining ourselves in the promise, and choosing to line up our heart with what He has said. For those who have not felt loved for a long time, or perhaps live in an environment where we are not affirmed and deeply loved by those around us, receiving a true revelation of God's love for us may take some time. Our hearts have to become fully persuaded and truly choose to believe it. For others, this may already be strong in their hearts.

For myself, it took about a year of dwelling and meditating on God's promises in this area before I truly had known and experienced the love of God. That doesn't make it a set timeframe, so please don't turn my experience into your program. I allowed Holy Spirit to lead me in this. You must allow Him to lead you too, because we are all on our own individual journeys with Him. But while I don't know HOW He will lead your journey, I do know that He will lead every believer to truly receive His love, because it is the foundation of everything else He wants to bring to our lives. In fact, without this revelation operating in our hearts, I don't believe we can truly step into our destinies.



Many people see 'Jesus loves me' as something elementary to be taught in Sunday School class and never considered again while we move onto the more exciting revelations of the Christian walk. We take that piece of information and move on before revelation takes hold of us. Yet receiving the love of God for us is as deep as it gets. Skimming over this revelation is like skimming over the foundation for a skyscraper. Everything is built on top of it. The foundation must be strong or the building will crumble. Apart from knowing with an unwavering and unshakeable faith that God loves us, we cannot receive all He has for us.

Ephesians 3:17 – 19 (TLB) ...May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvellous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it...

This sounds like an exploration, doesn't it! Discovering how wide, deep and high His love for us really is, and actually experiencing it for ourselves. YOU WILL NEVER TRULY UNDERSTAND IT UNTIL YOU FEEL AND EXPERIENCE IT.

If you haven't yet felt or experienced God's love for you, does that mean you're not loved? No! There's an entire Bible of kisses from God, telling you how much He loves you. There's entire planet filled with His love messages, His blessings. But you can't receive what you don't believe. Know and believe it.

Soak Time

Spend some time dwelling on Ephesians 3:17 – 19. Write what you feel.



Day Three: The One Chosen

To know and believe the love God has for you, means to know and believe the love God has for YOU! It's one thing to believe 'God loves US'. It's a whole different thing to believe 'God is head over heels in love with ME!'

It makes a huge difference to your relationship with God, whether you think you are:

One of many.

Or

The one chosen.

Would we feel confident in the love of our husbands if we were one of many he had affections for? Or does our confidence in their love come from the fact that we were chosen as the one for them?

You have to come to the place where you believe that you are the one in God's eyes. If you were the only person on the face of the planet, do you believe God would still have put His plan into place and send Jesus to come for you? Did Jesus die for the world, or did He die for you?

Here's a good test which may indicate what you truly believe.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whoever will believe in Him shall have eternal life.*

We know this scripture to be true, yet it is equally true for us to place our own names into this scripture. Say this out loud:

"For God so loved ME that He gave His only son, that as I believe in Him, I should have eternal life."

How does that make you feel? Do you feel comfortable saying that, or do you feel as though your words are untrue? Are you confident in this, or do you sound unsure of yourself?



The truth is, God did send Jesus just for YOU! He loved you and thought you were worth saving, even if not another person existed! How can we know this to be true? God's Word reveals many, many reasons why His love for you is individual, unconditional and endless.

Over the coming days, we will look at 10 of these reasons. Put yourself in these reasons and dare to believe that they are true of you, because they are!!!

Soak Time

Did you do the John 3:16 exercise above? If not, do it now. How did it make you feel? Did you believe what you were saying, or did you feel unsure as you spoke it?

Why do you think that God would love you enough to send Jesus for only you? Hint: It has absolutely nothing to do with who you think you are and are not, or your performance.



Day Four: Reason #1 God is Love

The first reason why you can know that you know the individual love of God for YOU is that **it's God's nature to love.**

Love is who God is. It's what He does. It's what defines Him. Of all the words He could have used to describe Himself, love is the one He chose.

1 John 4:8 (NKJV) *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

➤ **See:** 1 John 4:7; 1 John 4:10

If God is love itself, how on earth could He make an exception for you or for I? If His love is real and strong enough to drive Him to send His own Son to the cross for one person, then it's just as real and as strong for another person, and that person is you!

Ephesians 2:4 – 5 (AMP) *But God – so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us, even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ...*

He IS love and He could therefore be satisfied with nothing less than saving me and saving you. No one was outside of the realm of His salvation, because no one is outside of the realm of His love. It is just as great and wonderful and intense for each and every one of us.

There's also another thing we often forget. Any time God describes the facets of love or what love looks like, He is describing Himself. We read passages such as 1 Corinthians 13, the great 'love chapter', and see only God telling us how to love one another. While that is an important part of it, God is no hypocrite. He never tells us to do something He doesn't already do. And He does what He does because of who He is – there's no way He can accidentally forget and go



against it because it is His very nature and God is not a man that He should lie. He's consistent – the same, yesterday, today and forever! He is 'I AM'!

➤ **See:** Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 13:8; Exodus 3:14

So wherever we see an instruction to love, we must also know that this instruction describes what God has already bound Himself to because it is His very, unchanging nature. Are YOU intensely loved? God would have to not be God in order for that to untrue. His heart is wholeheartedly for you!

Soak Time

Go through 1 Corinthians 13:4 – 7 (and even the entire chapter) and substitute 'love' for 'God's love for me' and personalise it where possible to you and God. You will start to see what God's love for you looks like. For example: 'Love is patient, love is kind' = 'God's love for me is patient, God's love for me is kind. He does not envy...'

1 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV – confession) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV – confession) It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of ____ wrongs.



1 Corinthians 13:6 - 7 (NIV – confession) Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects ____, always trusts ____, always hopes ____, always perseveres ____. Love never fails.



Day Five: The Greatest Commandment

I'd already finished this week's devotional when I saw this scripture and Holy Spirit spoke to my heart about it with new meaning, so I had to include it:

Matthew 22:37 – 38 (NKJV) *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment."*

In light of what we've just looked at, that any instruction to us about love is actually something that God already does or thinks towards us, this scripture bursts forth in a totally new light. If Jesus tells us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind, and that this is the first and great commandment, then certainly the same is true of God.

God loves each and every one of us with all His heart, with all His soul and with all His mind (and in case you are wondering if God has a heart, soul and mind, we do and we were created in His image). This is the first and most important thing about His and our relationship together. It is foundational to everything He thinks about us and everything He does for and with us.

If we keep scanning the Word for scriptures about love, we'll discover other aspects of His relationship with us by applying the same reasoning. For example:

Romans 12:10 (NKJV) *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.*

What am I saying? That God honours us so much He gives preference to one another because that's what He's told us to do for one another? That's exactly what I am saying! I'm pretty sure God didn't go through the agony of watching His son die on a cross for His own sake. Of course He has given preference to us, even over Himself. Does that tell you what He sees in us? Probably far more than we have yet seen in ourselves.



Jesus laid Himself down low so that He could lift us up. He gave honour and preference to us by laying down His life, so that we could be raised to life with Him. That is love - true, undiluted, incredible, unthinkable love! And it's how He thinks of each and every one of us!

Soak Time

Go back to the scripture in Matthew 22:37 - 38. You choose how you want to meditate on and personalise this scripture and record how it makes you feel.

How do you want to meditate on and personalise Romans 12:10?

Allow Holy Spirit to lead you to other scriptures about love that can also show you how God loves you.
