

Turning Point Notes . . .
Reaching People for Christ
and
Helping believers grow to be like Him
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Part 2 – “He First Loved Us”

Central Point . . .

1 John 4:17-19

¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. ¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ All who proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. ¹⁷ And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we are like Christ here in this world. ¹⁸ Such love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us. ¹⁹ We love each other as a result of his loving us first.

When you invite Christ into your life to be your Lord and Savior it creates a "love" relationship. God dwells in you, therefore His Love abides in you and you in turn abide in Him. This "love" relationship is grounded in God's perfect love. It replaces our imperfect, selfish "love".

Now you have experienced in you a new kind of "unconditional" love, the love of God shown in Christ. He loved us, not because of what we have done, but because we need to be loved. We are left with the choice to return the love or not return the love.

Once we have experienced being unconditionally loved and have God's presence in us as believers, we are capable of loving relationships. With Christ we love a spouse, a friend, a co-worker no matter if they deserve it or not.
1 John 4:19 ¹⁹ We love each other as a result of his loving us first.

The more you mature your relationship with Christ, the more love you have to overflow to those around you.

Monday:

Focal Point . . . First Hand Experience . . .

1 John 4:7-16 ⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love. ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life

through him. ¹⁰ This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us. ¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. ¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ All who proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

Five Principles of Relationships

Principle # 1: When people have profound experiences, they want to share them. 1 John 4:12

¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.

1. What have you done for someone this last week that brought glory to God and not to you?

2. Who is the source of the strength and motivation to imitate God's kind of unconditional love to others?

3. What are the results of loving one another the way God loves us?

4. Who is someone that you have a difficult time getting along with that you need to ask God to help you love this week?

Prayer for the day: Heavenly Father, thank you for my "profound" experience of your presence in my life that I can have your love to share with others. In Jesus Name, Amen

Tuesday:

Principle # 2: An encounter with God's love is a profound experience.

Isaiah 6:1-8 ¹ In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ² Hovering around him were mighty seraphim, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with the remaining two they flew. ³ In a great chorus they sang, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" ⁴ The glorious singing shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire sanctuary was filled with smoke. ⁵ Then I said, "My destruction is sealed, for I am a sinful man and a member of a sinful race. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD Almighty!" ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew over to the altar, and he picked up a burning coal with a pair of tongs. ⁷ He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven." ⁸ Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go for us?" And I said, "Lord, I'll go! Send me."

1. How would you rate Isaiah's encounter with God and how he saw God?

2. Who did Isaiah learn that God is?

3. Isaiah was humbled. What did he learn about himself compared to who God is? (Verses 3,5)

4. Isaiah learned the urgency to proclaim the difference between God and man and what awaited man if he did not repent and turn to God. What was Isaiah's response to this profound experience? (verse 8)

Prayer for the day: Heavenly Father, use the profound experiences that you provide to motivate me to give myself away for the benefit of others expecting nothing in return. In Jesus Name, Amen

Wednesday:

Principle # 3: Those in a committed, personal relationship with God find that their love for others is always increasing.

Philippians 1:9-11 ⁹ *I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding. 10 For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until Christ returns. 11 May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—those good things that are produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.*

1. What were the two aspects of love that Paul prayed would grow abundantly in the Philippians? (Verse 9)

2. How will your relationships change when you mature beyond just feelings and emotions into "knowledge and understanding"?

3. As your knowledge and understanding grow about Christ what are the fruits of this maturing love? (Verses 10-11)

4. Instead of living for yourself and self-satisfaction what should be the driving desire of your heart? (Verse 11)

Prayer for the day: Heavenly Father, I want you to help me learn more about You and those you place in my life that I might love them in a way that brings glory and praise to you.

Thursday:

Principle # 4: Love eliminates fear. Hebrews 13:5-6

⁵ *Stay away from the love of money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never forsake you."* ⁶ *That is why we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"*

1. The writer of Hebrews challenges you to trust Him instead of what?

2. If you trust in God and not in material things, how does that give you more time and energy to focus on relationships? How will it strengthen your relationships?

3. No one wants to think about a relationship failing, however some do. What is the unique quality about your relationship with God that you can always count on even if other relationships fail?

4. Jesus never changes and is always a constant in your life. How does this add to your ability to face any challenge?

Prayer for the day: Heavenly Father, thank you for being constant and that I can trust in you more and material things less. In Jesus Name, Amen

Friday:

Principle # 5: We love because He first loved us. 1 Peter 4:7-11

7 The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. 8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. 10 God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you. 11 Are you called to be a speaker? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Are you called to help others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ. All glory and power belong to him forever and ever. Amen.

1. No one is promised a "tomorrow" so what should be your focus for today? (Verse 7-8)

2. How will your discipline to be faithful in prayer add strength to your life? Matthew 26:41 *41 Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you. For though the spirit is willing enough, the body is weak!"*

3. How has God designed each of us uniquely so that together we can be complete? (Verse 10-11)

4. It all works when you are submitted to God, getting direction and strength from Him. Then, who should receive glory for successful relationships?

Prayer for the day: Heavenly Father, I thank you for first loving me. Help me to love others even when they forget to love me. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Turning Point...

God wants you to:

♥ **Love one another:** (John 13:34; 15:12, 17; 2 John 5)

♥ **Encourage One Another:** (Ephesians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11)

♥ **Be At Peace With One Another:** (Mark 9:50; Romans.12:16)

♥ **Humbly Serve and Submit to One Another:** (John 13:14; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 4:9-10; 5:5)

♥ **Show Kindness and Honor to One Another:** (Romans 12:10; 15:7; 1 Corinthians 11:33; 12:25; Ephesians 4:2,32; Colossians 3:13)

♥ **Instruct One Another:** (Romans. 15:14; Colossians. 3:16)

♥ **Forgive One Another:** (Colossians 3:13)

♥ **Stop Judging One Another:** (Romans 4:13)

♥ **Pray for One Another:** (James 5:16)

♥ **Carry One Another's Burdens:** (Galatians 6:2)