

Rooted And Grounded In The Fathers Love

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[0 : 0 0] Amen. God is good. I greet you all in the name of the Lord Jesus. It's good to be here this morning and to worship and appreciate the songs, the testimonies today. And I do want to say Happy Mother's Day to all you mothers. And, you know, somebody made the mention something about God the Creator. I think it was Dan. The God that created mothers. You know, we don't worship mothers. We worship the Creator. But God uses mothers. And they're a huge blessing in our lives. God uses mothers to express His love to us. Sometimes when we're in our deepest need or need of the hour or whatever, I experienced something a week or a little over a week ago. I was struggling. I was really burdened with the message for the wedding. And it was just an hour or so before the wedding. And you know what I did? I went and called my mother. I don't know why. I just wanted to talk to her.

I just left her a message. But it made me feel a little better. You know? So when we have a mother that's loving and kind and gentle, there's something about that that is an expression of God's love. In fact, we'll get to some scriptures to prove that today. My message today is not necessarily a Mother's Day message or not necessarily about motherhood. So I don't want to disappoint you with that. But in a sense, it is. The title is Rooted and Grounded in the Father's Love.

I was, you remember, we were going through the Sermon on the Mount lately and I wasn't done with that. We're ready for chapter 6 and Matthew. But I have a different message for today. We'll maybe get to that later, Lord willing. But there's a great need for God's people to walk and to experience the love of God. And God's love to us is personal. I want to show that to us through the Apostle Paul and his writings. And in Galatians, Galatians chapter 2 verse 20, Paul said, I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live. Yet not I, but Christ liveth in the me and the life which I now live in the flesh. I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. You see how personal it is. Christ died for me, Paul says. He gave himself for me. God, I mean, sorry, Paul knew God's love. He knew him personally. Do we know him that way this morning? Do we know? Can we put your name in there? That you know that Christ died for you.

Christ gave himself for you, Joe, or whoever's name you want to put in there. If we know God, if we know that God loves us, we never need to fear what he might allow into our lives.

That was something that I used to fear. I used to be afraid of what, you know, if I sell out to God and give him my whole life, what's he going to do with me? You know, as we come to Christ, sometimes that's a reality. It's a fear that we have. But we don't need to. God loves us.

[4 : 20] He is intimately concerned about the details of our lives. You know, in reading that God loves us in his word and understanding that he died for our sins can just be head knowledge. It can just be information that we receive and gather. But receiving his spirit and experiencing his love is a reality. It's something that we need to sustain us, to live by. Yes, some people say that we preach, we preach, just preach the love of God. And we don't preach the wrath of God. Well, that's not true. We do preach. And the Bible talks about the wrath of God as well. And that's not my message today. But the Bible says that God is love. God is love. And it's through his love that salvation came to us. It's through his love that we can escape the wrath of God.

God's wrath over your sin, Brother Merlin, is canceled by what he did on the cross. Your sin was judged by the payment that Jesus paid, which was the love of God. God showed us his love by coming down and going to the cross. And to not preach the love of God would be to not preach the word of God. Because God is love. He's the very essence of love. Mothers wouldn't have any love if it wouldn't be for the love of God. We wouldn't know what love is.

Let's turn to Ephesians. That's where I got the title. Ephesians chapter 3. And starting in verse 14. Ephesians 3 chapter, I mean, yeah, chapter 3 verse 14. It says, For this cause I bow my knees. This is again Paul talking to the Ephesians.

I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that yea, being rooted and grounded in love. Rooted and grounded in love. Is that us this morning? Verse 18.

That we may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now these last verses are very familiar verses. But he says here in verse 19, that we are to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now what is the fullness of God? Does anybody know?

[8 : 05] What is that saying? What does that mean? That we would be filled with all the fullness of God? My mind can't wrap around it. Do we know the fullness of God? Just think about that for a minute.

Who God is. Who God is in Christ. Christ came and died. He became a man in a physical body and died.

But to know everything, but to know everything, the fullness of God. He's saying that you would be filled with that. And then people say, but we can't know.

And to know the love of Christ. Yes, that center part of that verse explains it. Which passeth knowledge. Our human mind can't even comprehend the fullness of God.

Verse 20. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. There it is again. We can't even think of the fullness of God.

[9 : 15] We can't even comprehend God fully. We can enough that we can understand our need of him. And we can receive him. We can understand enough.

But the fullness of God. God can do exceedingly above and abundantly above what we ask or think. Remember when Brother Aaron was here, he preached on that verse.

According to the power that worketh in us. Amen. You know, there's a story of a little girl.

I want to just share. I shared this like five years ago. But there's a story of a little girl named Liza who was suffering from a rare and serious disease.

Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her five-year-old little brother. He had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness.

[10 : 29] The doctor explained the situation to her little brother and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. We saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, Yes, I will do it if it saves Liza.

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded.

He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, Will I die right away? Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor.

He thought he had to give her all his blood. You know, this story beautifully illustrates the extravagant love of God.

Jesus said, This is my commandment that you love one another. As I have loved you, Greater love hath no man than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

[11 : 45] In John. Oh yes. Didn't Jesus do just that? He gave all his blood. He came and he showed us how to love.

He showed us what love actually is. And that is to lay down his life so that we can have life. That little boy was willing at five years old. And in his mind and in his little heart, he did it.

But Jesus went all the way. And not only did he shed his blood, but he also, the Bible said he was made sin for us, meaning that he took, he became the curse of sin.

The, what is that Old Testament prophecy? Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree. And I believe as he was in the garden, agonizing and asking the Father if this cup can pass from him, he was way more concerned about the relationship with his heavenly Father.

I believe in the pain that, the wrath of God that had to be poured out on him than he was with the physical death. But he took that all upon himself.

[13 : 06] And in the end, he said, Lord, not my will, but thine be done. He did all that while we were yet sinners. In Romans 5, verse 8, it says, but God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

While we were yet sinners. Before we, see, we didn't do anything to impress God. We didn't, like Merlin shared this morning, we didn't have to become good enough.

We didn't have to do something to make him like us. We couldn't anyway. We're so unholy and he's so holy. But by faith in the Son of God, by faith in the cross, we could read John chapter 17.

That would be a wonderful chapter. I'm going to leave it for now. We'll see if we'll get to that. But John chapter 17, where Jesus prayed for us.

He prayed for all believers. He prayed for the disciples. And in that, it is just full of the love of God. As I have loved you and as you have loved me, so love we them.

[14 : 15] And just, it's an amazing chapter. We should read it personally if we don't get to it today. There are other scriptures I'd like to look at.

In Isaiah chapter 49, verse 15, it says, Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb?

Yea, they may forget, some may forget, yet will I not forget thee. That's what God says to us.

Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands. You know, and Jesus also uses, he also said something to the Jews. When he looked out over Jerusalem, he said, Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

How often would he have wanted to take them under his wing like a mother hen her little chicks? Jesus promised to never leave or forsake us.

[15 : 28] Another verse in Isaiah, For the mountains shall depart and the hills be moved, but my kindness, love, shall not depart from thee. Neither shall my covenant of peace be removed, saith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee.

As the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. And then of course in John 3.16, For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son.

We know that verse. The Bible is just full of the love of God. It's because God is love. The love of God, God is love.

One and the same. My mind went to David David. David had this love relationship with God.

We could read throughout Psalms and see that. We can see it very clearly. He had gotten a hold of this love when he was a young boy and he never seemed to let go.

[16 : 32] He may have stumbled, he may have, but he always came back. He always claimed the love of God. He always wanted to be in fellowship with God. And it sustained him through all his years.

In Psalm 23, one of the most common Psalms that is used in funerals. But, it's fine to use it in funerals, but let's read it.

It's made, it's written for us today. It's not for when we're not here anymore. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He lacks nothing because that void was filled.

The void in David's heart was filled. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. That's probably the verse that's primarily used in, you know, funerals.

[17 : 37] Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. And it's right. Thou preparest the table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.

His heart, he's talking about his heart, I believe. His heart was completely full and satisfied in the love of God. Verse 6, Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

David knew that in the Old Testament, David knew that the house of the Lord, the temple of God, was a place where God dwelled. Wherever that was, he's going to dwell there the rest of his life forever.

He wanted to be in the presence of God where that love was all the time. David knew what would sustain him.

He knew what would keep him from a sinful lifestyle. What would give him victory over his enemies. He knew what would make him successful as a king.

[18 : 51] He knew that the love of God in his heart was all he needed. The only one, the one and only desire, I should say, he had was to live in God's presence.

In Psalm 27, verse 4, it says, One thing have I desired of the Lord that I will seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

That is, I believe that is, to learn of God. He wanted to know this God personally. And yet, David had all the wealth and power and position and authority any man could ever dream of.

He became king. He was famous. Likely the most famous king ever. Not the wisest because Solomon was the wisest, but he knew that the love of his creator was the only thing that would really satisfy his soul.

I believe David knew that from a young man. Do we know that this morning? Is that real to us? That the love of God, having God in our hearts, understanding his love, having Christ, you know, we can only have that love through Christ.

[20 : 26] Jesus said that no man comes to the Father except by me. Right? Are we looking to fill that void somehow?

Maybe somewhere else? Maybe it's just in relationships with other people? Maybe it's a good spouse or girlfriend or boyfriend or best friends.

You know, spouses will die someday. That's just a fact of life. Friends might let you down. What do we do then in hard times?

We can look for that void in so many areas. Entertainment and fun. Work, business. Working for the church even. Providing for a family and on and on.

And on. But we are to have a relationship with our Heavenly Father through Christ by faith.

[21 : 31] Do we love to spend time with Him? Do we cherish and love His love and do we seek it like David did? Do we believe and trust in Him by faith?

You know, some of us, some of you have come through hard times. through hard times. Some of us have lost family members.

You know, some of us don't have our mothers anymore or fathers. Some of our mothers and fathers have rejected us. But we can dwell in the house of the Lord.

We'll get to a verse that tells us something very precious when our father and mother reject us. God made so that we can identify with Him.

He was able to relate with us. This mighty creator, God. Here's a story I want to read.

[22 : 49] of a prince. He wanted to find a maiden suitable to be his queen. One day while running an errand in the local village for his father, he passed through a poor section.

As he glanced out the windows of the carriage, his eyes fell upon a beautiful maiden. During the ensuing days, he often passed by the young lady, but he had a problem.

How would he seek her hand? This was in a poor peasant part of the country. He could order her to marry him, but even a prince wants a bride to marry him freely and voluntarily, and not through force.

He could put his most splendid uniform, put on his most splendid uniform and drive up to her front door in a carriage drawn by six beautiful horses. But if he did this, he would never be certain that the maiden loved him, or was she simply overwhelmed with all of the splendor.

The prince came up with another solution. He would give up his kingly robe. He moved into the village, entering into entering not with a crown, but with the garb of a peasant.

[24 : 15] He lived among the people, shared their interests and concerns, and talked their language. In time, the maiden grew to love him because of who he was and because he loved her first.

You know, it's a very simple, almost childlike story, but God in heaven, think of him as a king. sending his son down here to identify with humanity, to live with us, show us how to love, and ultimately die and giving his life.

I just thought that was an interesting story. You know, and John described it much like that. In John chapter 1, it says, and the word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory.

The glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. God came and he lived among us. He revealed himself to us in an understandable way, a way that we could relate with.

In fact, the Bible says he was tempted in all points, like as we, yet without sin. He could relate with our struggles, temptations.

[25 : 43] Are we thankful that we have a Savior, a God? We serve a living God that was willing to suffer for us. And now Jesus says that if we love others more than him, we're not worthy of him.

Let's turn to Matthew chapter 10. Look at some scriptures there. Matthew chapter 10 verse 28.

It says, And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul, but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Then he says, Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your father? But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear ye not, therefore, you are more valuable than many sparrows. Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my father which is in heaven.

[26 : 57] But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth.

Listen to these verses. I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance, that means at odds, against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

He that loveth father and mother more than me is not worthy of me, and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me.

He that findeth his life shall lose it, but he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it, he that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

You know, this might be a hard saying to some. It is a hard saying to some. Some will never do this. Some will never leave their father and mother for Jesus Christ.

[28 : 19] Others will. In fact, Jesus said there will only be a few that find the way. And those that do will face persecution.

We're not promised an easy road. The way of the cross is not an easy way, but it's the only way for the believer. It's the only way to the father.

This life may be very difficult and rough at times, but we have many promises promises that the battle is worth it all. That the way of the cross is worth it in the end.

One of those is simply that Jesus will never leave us or forsake us. He'll always be with us. He will always be with us and we can know that the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts.

In Romans 5 it says, and hope maketh not ashamed. I think it's in chapter 5 verse 5 if you want to turn there you can.

- [29 : 33] There's a couple verses there. But just thinking about the cross and what it means to follow Christ, that cross crucifies the flesh if we embrace it.
- And we lose so to speak. Like Jesus said, you lose your life. And then we'll find it because of Christ. We'll find Christ. He is the very essence of life.
- He is life. He is love. In Romans 5 verse 5, and hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in your hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
- For when we were yet without strength in due time Christ died for the ungodly, for scarcely a righteous man will one die. Yet preadventure for a good man some would even dare to die.
- But God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. You see, it would make sense or at least more sense in the human thinking, human mind to die for somebody that deserves it.
- [30 : 55] But we didn't even deserve it. We didn't deserve any of it. We deserve hell. And yet while we were yet in our sins, Christ died for us. Has that ever gripped our soul, our heart?
- You never have to earn it. You can't. He died when we were still sinners. Can't earn that. It's a gift and it's up to us to receive it.
- Is our soul satisfied today? Are we rooted and grounded in the Father's love? Do we know what it is to be living and walking in the love of God?
- For there is no fear of tomorrow. I'll admit sometimes fear wants to grip our hearts. I'll admit that.
- There's times we face things that look like a big mountain. It's reality. Fear wants to come. But we need to focus. We need to sometimes just refocus and say, God, I'm your child.
- [32 : 11] I belong to you. This is your battle. And we can rest in that. We can have peace, total peace, where we have all that we need, no more worries, satisfied in His love.
- Peace that no man can give you and no man can take away. We can have that today if we believe. If we put all our trust in Him.
- In Psalm, Psalm 27, there's a short verse there that I've often thought about. You know, the truth of the matter is sometimes fathers and mothers do forsake us.
- Sometimes it's because of religion. Usually, that's what it is. Not always. Sometimes it's just sin, other times it's religion. But fathers and mothers do forsake.
- But in Psalm, it says, when my father and my mother forsake me, does anybody know the rest of that verse? Then the Lord will take me up.
- [33 : 30] It's a promise. The Bible is full of promises like that. So, if you have a father and mother that because of a sinful life or because of man religion, maybe they don't even want to forsake you, but they do.
- But there's a promise. Then the Lord will take me up. The Lord will take me up. He'll be your father. I remember probably about 27 years ago when I first heard that verse.
- How precious it was. You know, God changed my father's heart later on. And it became, we were restored to a degree, to a large degree.
- And I'm very thankful for that. But there was a time where I felt very much like some of you all are feeling. And that verse was precious to me.
- in 2nd Corinthians chapter 6, there's a verse I'd like to read there as well, two verses. It says, wherefore, Paul is saying, come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you.
- [34 : 54] And then there's verse 18, and will be a father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Almighty.

God will be our father. He will be everything that we need. I don't know why I'm preaching this on Mother's Day, but I just felt I needed to.

God will be our father. He wants to be our father. He desires it. He wants to take care of us. In Romans 8, verse 15, for you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear.

Listen, we don't, we didn't receive the spirit of fear. the bondage to fear. Hang on to these verses, dear ones. For we have not received the spirit of fear of bondage again to fear, but have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

We can be adopted into God's family, and we are through Christ, by faith. back to Galatians 4, verse 6, and because you are sons, God has sent forth his spirit, the spirit of his son, Jesus, into your hearts crying, Abba, Father.

[36 : 35] God will put his spirit, the spirit of his son, Jesus, into our hearts, that will make us say, Father, to our heavenly Father.

Has he done that for you? It's by faith. The spirit of the son of God in our hearts, we can now be his sons and his daughters that cry out to him, a loving father.

God uses the heart, many times he uses the heart of mothers to express his love. God God uses the heart. Here's that verse I was looking for.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who killed the prophets and stoned those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathered her chicks under her wings, and you are not willing.

They killed the prophets, they killed the men that God sent to them. God wanted to gather them all together but they would not.

[37 : 52] And yet there were some, there were a few. He had his disciples. In Isaiah 49, a few verses in 49, 14, but you don't have to turn there.

But Zion said, the Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me. It says, can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child that she has born?

Though she may forget, I will not forget you. You see, the love of God, the love of the Father in heaven is stronger than any human love than we could possibly get.

mother. It is more secure, it is more sure, more solid, more faithful than any mother could ever give you.

In fact, he's the creator of mothers, like we heard. Though she might forget, I will not forget you. That's a promise.

[39 : 03] The next verse says, see, I have engraved you in the palms of my hand. Your walls are ever before me.

We could go on and on, I think I'll stop here soon, but we could go on and on about the Father's love. We could think of the prodigal son and the prodigal son's father and how when he came home the father ran.

And the prodigal just simply said, I have sinned against you and against God and I just want to be a servant. And that's what our attitude should be towards God when we repent and come to him, that we just want to be a servant.

But God does so much more. He says, oh no, you'll be my son. You'll be my daughter. What did he do? He made the biggest and bestest meal possible.

Invited. There's a big celebration over one sinner that repents. We could go on about those kind of things throughout the whole Bible. Revealing and exposing the heart of love that God has.

[40 : 21] And you know, I'll agree, he also is a God of wrath. But his wrath remains on those that reject his love. love. Did you get that?

Those that reject the love of God, his wrath will remain on them. And today, they and all of us can still receive his love and forgiveness.

He has made the provision. He's done everything he possibly could to save us. And the choice is ours. You know, there's no such thing as forced submission.

If it's forced, it's not submission. Christianity, having faith in the Father, is all voluntary. Nobody has to be a Christian.

God designed it that way. It's not my idea. It's not your idea. It's God's way. He designed it that way. Just like that smart prince that went looking for a bride.

[41 : 34] He didn't want a forced bride. Neither does God. He wants somebody that serves him because they love him. that song really spoke to me.

There was a number of songs, but that one, Living by Faith, just really blessed me. I'm going to read part of that at least. I care not today what tomorrow may bring.

It's a good phrase, isn't it? We don't know what tomorrow brings. We don't know what we face. If shadow or sunshine or rain, the Lord I know ruleth for everything and all my worry is vain.

And he says, Living by faith, yes, living by faith in Jesus above, trusting, confiding in his great love from all harm, safe in his sheltering arm.

I'm living by faith and I feel no alarm. We can lay down all those alarms. Those, you know, little bits of fear that want to come if we live by faith.

[42 : 48] Though tempest may blow and storm clouds arise, obscuring the brightness of life, I'm never alarmed at the overcast skies.

The master looks on at the strife. I know that he safely will carry me through, no matter what evil betide.

Why should I then care, though the tempest may blow, if Jesus walks close to my side? Our Lord will return to this earth some sweet day.

Our troubles will then all be o'er. The master so gently will lead us away beyond that blessed heavenly shore.

power. And he goes on living by faith. Someday, if we serve him, take up our cross daily, serve him, love him with all our hearts, and we hear those words, well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord.

[43 : 54] Lord, I think that'll be an overwhelming moment, unlike anything we've ever experienced, to know that forever we can be with him, the one that died for us.

Let's pray. Father, we just thank you this morning for your love. Lord, we thank you. We're so unworthy. Lord, we're so unworthy of what you've done for us.

That you've loved us, Lord, and you came down, you suffered, you gave your life, so that we can know you, and that we can be forgiven from our sins.

And Lord, that you now want to live in us, you want to give us strength, you want to give us power. Lord, I pray for the Steary family, I pray for Vern and Rosa, and especially Vern, as we don't know what he will face in the coming days, we don't know.

Lord, you do, and all we know is that you love us, and that you carry us through, and others that may be struggling with relationships and things that have gone bad in relationships with parents or loved ones.

[45 : 16] Lord, I pray for healing. I pray that the love of God would just overwhelm us and overflow our soul, Lord, that we would know you.

We would know Jesus. We will know who we have believed, and you're the one that made it possible. Thank you for the gift of faith, that we can have faith and trust, putting all our trust into your hand.

We don't know what tomorrow brings. None of us know. Lord, we know that you hold the future, and we know that you died for us, and that is enough.

Lord, we just believe in you. We trust you. Lord, I pray for those that walk in darkness and don't know you. I pray, Lord, that there would be a shining light, that they would see light, and they would receive it and accept it, and they would begin walking towards that light until they find you, Lord Jesus.

Open their hearts, Lord, to you. Lord, I pray for more that would be saved, more that would come out of darkness. Father, we just surrender everything to you and ask for your will to be done.

[46 : 32] In Jesus' name, amen.