

## Do You **REALLY** Believe That God Loves You?

We read it in the bible in many different places that God loves us and cares about us. **Romans 8:37-39**; "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. **Zephaniah 3:17**; "He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love. He will rejoice over you with singing. **1 Peter 5:6-7**; "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God; that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. **1 John 3:1**; "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God." **Jeremiah 29:11**; "For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans of peace and not of evil, to give you a hope and an expected end." **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten son that whoever believes on Him will not die but have eternal life." **Romans 5:8** "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" to name a few.

We even sing songs telling us: Jesus Loves Me This I Know... How do we know? For the bible tells us so.

But even though we read all these scriptures and sing the songs, do you **REALLY** believe that God loves you? After all, if we **REALLY** believe that God loves us, then why do we fear? The scriptures tell us to fear not! All over the bible it tells us that. Perfect love casts out fear. God's love is perfect. It is unconditional. It doesn't matter who we are or what we have done, God loves us. He wants the best for us. In **John 10:10**, Jesus says that the thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come to give you an abundant life". Do you really believe that??

What about the circumstances you are facing right now? Sickness, financial lack, relationship problems. If God loves you, then why should you be facing these problems?

Let's look again at **John 10:10**. The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy. WHO comes to steal? WHO comes to kill? WHO comes to destroy? Did God put the sickness on you?

**1 Peter 2:24** tells us : "who himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins ,might live for righteousness - **BY WHOSE STRIPES WE WERE HEALED!!** How about **Matthew 8:17** that says: "HE himself took our infirmities, and bore our sickness." Or **Exodus 15:26**: "I am The Lord who heals you." So the question again is: Did God put the sickness on you?? Go back again to **John 10:10**. "The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come to give you an abundant life." Is sickness a part of God's abundant life for you??? NO!!!! Sickness is a curse from the enemy!!! But praise God because of what Jesus did, we are redeemed from the curse as it tells us in **Galatians 3:13**.

What about financial problems you may be having. Is God trying to teach you something through them? Let's look at **Ps. 1:3**: "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither;

and ***whatsoever he does shall prosper.***" And **Ps. 23:** "The Lord is my shepherd, ***I shall not want.***" Or **Ps. 35:27:** "Let them shout for joy, and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually "Let The Lord be magnified ***Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.***" What about **Malachi 3:10** that says: "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in my house and try me in this, says The Lord of Hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and ***pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it!***" And one more: **Philippians 4:19:** But my God will supply ***all your need*** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Does this sound like God is putting financial burdens on you to teach you something? Again, go back to **John 10:10.** **WHO** comes to steal your money, your health? **WHO** comes to kill and destroy you? And what did Jesus say **HE** comes to do? "**I come to give you an abundant life.**"

Are you beginning to get the idea? Everything bad comes from the enemy. Everything good comes from God. God is love. As it says in **1 John 4:8:** "He that does not love, does not know God, for God is love." And also in **1 John 4:16:** ..."God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him."

So if God is love and love dwells in us, and God therefore dwells in us, why should we fear anything? It is not God's will to harm us. He created us! He desires for us to live an abundant life here on earth. But in order to cast out fear that comes only from the evil one, we must **BELIEVE and TRUST** that God loves us and wants the best for us.

Too many times we focus on our circumstances and what the devil is doing to us. We speak of our problems, our sickness, our lack more than we speak of what God has done for us. **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!!!** Count them one by one. Remember the song, "Count Your Blessings?" by John Oatman Jr and Edwin O Excell. Look back on your life and think about all the blessings God gave you. It wasn't just luck.

Why does God bless us? Because of His love for us. God wants to bless us and give us good things **just because He loves us.** How wonderful is that??! How can we really know and believe God really loves us? It starts by reading His Word. The bible shows us the character of God and who we are in Christ. As we read about God and His love for us and all he has done for us, and who we are in Him, meditate on it and speak it out, we will in time get to know truly how much God really loves us. Then because we begin to understand that love for us, we can begin to love Him and trust Him that all His promises are yes and Amen as the bible tells us.

So when you are going through trials, or being tormented by the enemy, **SPEAK OUT** what God says about your situation and **BELIEVE IT** with **ALL** your heart. **NOT JUST WITH YOUR HEAD!!!** Believe and **DOUBT NOT!** James says in chapter 1 verses 6 and 7: "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from The Lord; he is a double minded man, unstable in all his ways.

God still loves you, but you will find it difficult to receive from Him what He has planned for you because of your doubting, your unbelief.

Even the disciples who walked with Jesus for 3 years had trouble with it. Let's go to **Matthew 17 verse 14**. It talks about a boy who was possessed by a demon which the disciples could not cast out. Jesus then cast it out, but later in private, the disciples asked Jesus why they could not cast it out. Jesus's response in verse 20 says; "Because of your unbelief, for assuredly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you would say to this mountain, 'move from here to there' and it would move, and **NOTHING** would be impossible for you."

Jesus had also told us that "these signs will follow those **WHO BELIEVE**; in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover." That's in **Mark 16:17, 18**.

God loves us so much that he gave his only Son to die for you and me so that we could have a close personal relationship with Him. Without Jesus, we would not be able to talk with God or fellowship with Him. He requires perfection and we all certainly are NOT perfect. That's why he had to send Jesus to pay the price for us so that we could once again be able to talk with God and have a close personal relationship with Him just as He originally intended when He created Adam and Eve. Jesus paid the **FULL** price for us. **ALL** of our sins, **ALL** diseases that could ever come upon us were placed on Jesus on the cross. God loves you and me that much. What a sacrifice!!! Could you give up your child to be killed for another human being? Particularly one who hated you? That's what Jesus did for you and me. That's how much God loves you!! And as we begin to understand how much He loves us, we then will be able to love Him back because as the Bible says, "We love because He first loved us." But we must be willing to spend time with Him and read His Word to get to know Him so that we CAN trust and believe.

The sooner we truly believe that and accept what Jesus did for us, all doubting and unbelief will cease. **Proverbs 3:5** says to "trust in The Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."

Our ways are not God's ways; but when we begin to seek Him first with our whole heart, His ways will become our ways.

This world is full of evil and so it is difficult to not get trapped by it's evil desires; the temptations that so easily ensnares us. As it says in **Hebrews 12:1**: "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us; looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."

I believe that's the key: **looking unto Jesus**. We need to get our eyes off of ourselves, our problems, our circumstances and look to Jesus. Remember how Peter was able to walk on the water as long as he kept focusing on Jesus, but the moment he took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the wind and the waves, he was afraid and started to sink.

Satan will always come back at you with fear. Fear of failure, fear of what people will think, fear of what the doctor said, fear that you won't be able to pay that bill, fear of the future. Fear, fear, fear! What did the bible say about fear? **FEAR NOT!!!** "God did not give you a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind." **2 Timothy 1:7**

Too long have we lived in fear. It's time we tell Satan where to go!! Fear is belief in what the devil tells you. Faith is belief in what God tells you. **WHO** are you going to believe? **WHO** are you putting your trust in? Your faith in? Where you put your trust and your faith determines how your life will go. Do you want the blessings of God or the curses of the enemy??! You choose. Choose life or death.

Don't be upset when you stumble and fall and some days you are believing God and the next morning you get up and your day goes all wrong and you start speaking what the devil is telling you. Just catch yourself and rebuke those words and speak out loud what God says. The more you do this, the easier it will be. I for one am looking forward to the day when all my words are Godly words and the enemy can no longer wipe me out with his evil, distorted deceitful thoughts.

Remember, when a thought comes to your mind, check it out first like the security guard has to stop and check out people to make sure they are allowed in. Check your words the same way. If the thoughts are not lovely, and of a good report, if they are not worthy of praise as **Philippians 4:8** tells us; cast out those thoughts! They are not from God! They are from the enemy who is trying to steal, kill and destroy you with poisonous thoughts. Then when you speak out those poisonous thoughts, you take ownership of them. Do you **REALLY** want those evil, harmful things to happen that you just spoke out of your mouth? Immediately rebuke it and say I rebuke those words I just spoke! They are not Godly words. Don't let the enemy fill your mind with junk! Instead fill your mind with thoughts worthy of praise, love, and good things.

Put your mind back on Jesus and focus on Him and how much God loves you. You **do** have a part to play. Jesus already did everything for you, but you must turn to Him and resist the devil. Keep resisting him because he will leave for a while but will return at a more opportune time.

I believe that as we continually check our thoughts at the door so to speak as we would check our coats, or the security guard checks people coming in, eventually it will become second nature to us and we will start to really experience fully all that God has in store for us. He loves us so much. He wants only the best for us. He wants us to have that abundant life here on earth that Jesus died to give us. But **WE** have to do our part. We have to check our thoughts, speak what God says about us, and believe and

trust in Him with NO DOUBTING. Trust and believe with our whole heart and we will receive all the blessings God has in store for us.

I speak this word to you because I am speaking it to myself. I don't have everything right. I still fear and give in to what the devil tells me in my mind. But I am learning. We are all on a journey and the more we walk with Jesus, the closer our relationship gets; then we start to trust Him more and can believe He means what He says.

God bless you all and may you begin to know just how much God truly loves you.

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