

God's Glory (Love)

When Moses prayed, "show me Thy glory!" God told him "I Myself will make all of My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion." (Exo 33:18,19) The next morning, when Moses took two stone tablets up to Mount Sinai and called upon on the name of the LORD, the LORD passed him by and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and merciful (gracious), slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and faithfulness (truth); who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgive iniquity, transgressions and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of the grandchildren to the third and fourth generation." (Exo 34:6,7) Moses received a revelation of God's glory and His goodness. In first John we see that John also had a revelation of God's glory: "And we have come to *know* and have *believed* the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in Him." (1 Jn 4:16) He had come to *know* and *believe* God's love. Lately the Lord has been revealing His love and His character to me. My prayer is that I might likewise *fully know* and *truly believe* the love of God. I am reminded of a line in a song a dear brother wrote. It says, "Until you understand My love, you'll never be free." I believe as we understand, in truth, God's love and divine nature, it will bring a sweet rest and freedom in Him that can only be experienced through a revelation of His glory.

In Jeremiah chapter thirty-one God says He has "loved [us] with an everlasting love; therefore He has drawn [us] with lovingkindness." (Jer 31:3) Let us not think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, knowing that the kindness of God has led us to repentance. (Rom 2:4) This chapter contains a great picture of God's heart and shows us four aspects of His character; namely, the God of Israel, a Father, a Shepherd, and a Husband. I would like to share what the Lord has been teaching me about the first two of these characteristics.

In verse one of Jeremiah chapter thirty-one the Lord declares, "I will be the *God* of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people." It is very important for us to understand that God's heart is for us to be His people and for Him to be our God. This is one of the precious promises that we have given to us in the New Testament: "We are the temple of the living God; just as God said, 'I will dwell *in* them and walk *among* them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.'" (2 Cor 6:16) We are a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's *own* possession." (1 Pet 1:9) Jesus gave "Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for *Himself* a people for His *own* possession, zealous for good deeds." (Tit 2:14) The Lord is our God; the Lord is one, we shall have no other gods before Him. He is a jealous God and desires to be the only true love in our lives that He may bless us and reveal Himself in us and through us. Not only does he desire to be our God, but He also wants to be our Father: "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome (receive) you. And I will be a father to you." (2 Cor 6:17, 18)

In verse nine of Jeremiah thirty-one the Lord says, "with weeping they shall come, and by supplications I will lead them; I will make them walk by streams of waters, on a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I am a *Father* to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn." Often in the Bible God is depicted as a loving Father. Brethren, "see how great a love the Father has

bestowed upon us, that we should become children of God.” (1 Jn 3:1) When we have “received the Spirit of adoption as sons, we ourselves will cry out, “Abba! Father!” (Rom 8:15) I believe if we truly understand and live in the revelation of God being our Loving Father that it will completely transform our lives. What an awesome thing it is to have a glimpse of the reality of being a son of the Most High God. Paul prayed for the Ephesians that Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith; and that they, “being rooted and grounded in *love*, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the *love of Christ* which surpasses knowledge,” that they may be filled up to all the fullness of God. (Eph 3:17-19) With the comprehension of His love, comes the fullness of Christ. John writes, “For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. (Jn 1:16,17) “God *so* loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) “By this the love of God was manifested (revealed) *in us*, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might *live* through Him.” (1 John 4:9) God desires to “show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.” (Eph 2:7) While we were still helpless, ungodly sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:6,8) Jesus came down to earth and “emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, being made in the likeness of man.” (Phil 2:8) He offered Himself, without blemish to God, to bear the sins of many and to put our sin away by His sacrifice. (Heb 9:14,26,28) What a loving Father we have.

One of the things I am starting to realize is how the devil continually tries to get us to doubt His love for us and that He wants the best for us—which is received through faith, and loving Him and keeping His word. “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth *much more* than they? ... Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown in to the furnace, will he not *much more* do so for you, O men of little faith?” (Matt 6:26,28-29) “Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to you children, how *much more* shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” (Matt 7:9-11) God *will* provide for His children—no matter what the enemy may tell us. As we continually seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; all these things *shall* be added to us. (Matt 6:33) David said he had been young and old; yet he had not seen the righteous forsaken, or his descendants begging bread. (Psa 37:25) We need to believe in the love that God has for us and that He is patient towards us, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. (2 Pet 3:9) Jesus often *longed* “to gather her children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,” (Matt 23:37) speaking of Jerusalem, who is in slavery with her children (Gal 4:5). God wants to bless us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus. He desires to build His kingdom in us; which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Luke 17:21 & Rom 14:17) Let us not be afraid, for our Father has chosen *gladly* to give us the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

Father God, may we *know and understand* that You love us, even as You love Jesus, in order that this same love may be *in us*. (Jn 17:23,26) May we receive a revelation of the glory that Thou hast given Jesus and become one, just as You are one with the Son. (Jn 17:22)