

Episode 016

Experiencing the Father's love (Being Prayerful Series)

Introduction

I thought about my family's lounge room at home: an array of bookshelves in the hallway leading to this family lounge room. There, you would see sofas with colorful cushions, making it cozy and comfortable—a safe place to hang out with family and friends. Behind these sofa sets is my little corner: a simple set of drawers with a comfortable chair and a laptop table where I spend time in prayer, reading God's Word, and working in my little home office. This is my home, and my Papa God dwells here. I am very familiar with this beautiful corner, which I cherish because this space reminds me that I have personal and direct access to God, as He is my Heavenly Father. He is always available to see us, never too busy, and He always loves us.

In 1 John 3:1 (NIV), it says, 'How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.'

If we want to have a sustainable and healthy prayerful life, we need to be secure in our Father's love toward us. We need to continually live in a close relationship with Him.

Your identity, intrinsic value, worth, and significance come from your relationship with God rather than from your performance. When we know that we are completely loved by Papa God and have the revelation that He loves us unconditionally, we will be more willing to do whatever He says and serve wherever He wants because of our relationship with the Lord Himself.

John 15:9 (NIV) says, "'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.'



When was the last time you experienced the love of our Heavenly Father?

How does the revelation of God's immense love for us help us in our prayer life?

1. Greater reliance upon God in our prayer life.

The Spirit of God works in us as we cooperate with the Lord. All the prayers offered are not solely by our own effort. Prayer is born out of that place of spiritual intimacy with God.

2. Greater boldness in approaching God's throne of grace and obtaining mercy as we pray on behalf of others.

The more we experience God's love, the more we seek to approach Papa God's throne of mercy because we are confident in His love for us and others.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) says, 'Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.'

3. Greater joy in prayer and intercession is experienced when we know we are loved by God.

This love of God has become heartfelt knowledge within us, not just intellectual knowledge. We pray because we love to; it is not a chore but a joy!

4. Greater revelation from God's wonderful Word.

From that place of intimacy in relating with God, we begin to pray scriptures into being as we meditate on God's Word daily. We learn to pray and intercede on personal matters or for others by praying through scriptures.



**Andrew Murray, a wonderful prayer warrior once wrote:**

“Little of the Word with little prayer is death to the spiritual life. Much of the Word with little prayer gives a sickly life. Much prayer with little of the Word gives more life, but without steadfastness. A full measure of the Word and prayer each day gives a healthy and powerful life.

Our prayer time, no matter how intense, is never truly complete without the divine nourishment available only from God's Word. Indeed the Word of God, is the Christian's true word of prayer. It is our guide and our foundation for all effective praying. To neglect God's word is to neglect God's power.”



Discussion Questions

These questions could be done personally or as part of a group discussion.

1. When was the last time you experienced the love of your Heavenly Father?
2. Be still in God's presence, lean in, and listen to God. Is the Lord giving you any impressions of His love for you and for particular people whom He is calling you to pray for?





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