Opening Scripture

*“Those who fear the Lord are secure; he will be a refuge for their children. Fear of the Lord is a life-giving fountain; it offers escape from the snares of death.”*

*‭‭Proverbs‬ ‭14:26-27‬ ‭NLT‬‬*

**The Antidote For Fear**

*1 John 4:16-18 NKJV*

*[16] And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. [17] Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. [18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*

*1 John 4:17-18 MSG*

*[17-18] God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day-our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life-fear of death, fear of judgment-is one not yet fully formed in love.*

Intro: (Recap previous messages about fear. The dangers of fear that are present in various areas of life: Fear of Sickness & Suffering, Fear of Lack, Fear of Loneliness, Fear of Failure, Fear of Judgement, Fear of Death) Fear is a weapon the enemy uses to paralyze God’s people. Although we have gone into detail in previous messages about how to protect against fear; tonight we will explore the foundational truth that will eradicate all fear. So what is this foundational truth...

**God Loves Me (God Loves YOU)**

**(State: If you are tempted to tune me out because you think you already know about God’s love, then you are the main one who needs to listen the most)**

**First we will look at why God loves us so much…**

It’s because God is love, therefore it is His Very Nature to love. Love is not something God does, but that is who He is.

*Romans 5:5-11 NASBS*

*[5] and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. [6] For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7] For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. [8] But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. [10] For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. [11] And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*

Expound on these verses-Asking the question could you see yourself giving your life for someone who you did not know or worse yet giving your life for someone who despised you and cursed your name? Or how eager would you be to give your son’s life up for such a person?

So why does He love you so much? Because, He Is Love, He does not have Love, He Is Love and since you as His very own child you were created in His image, He can see Himself in you…”you are a chip off the old block”

**Secondly, we will look at the quality of God’s love…**

Most of us have some experience with human love, we have or have had people in our loves that cared for us in various ways. However, human love even at its best has its limits or in other words there are conditions.

The KJV uses the word charity when referring to God’s love: the following is a description of the word charity in the Greek:

with a definite article, “a love that gives and gives, even if it’s never responded to, thanked, or acknowledged; a love felt when an individual sees, recognizes, or appreciates the value of an object or a person; a deep love that causes a viewer to behold an object or person in esteem, awe, admiration, wonder, and sincere appreciation; a love so profound that it knows no limits or boundaries in how far, wide, high, and deep it will go to show that love to its recipient; a self-sacrificial love that moves one to action”. - Pastor/Greek Scholar Rick Renner

(Give illustration of shopping for quality products-quality products are backed by warrants that ensure that the product will in some cases be available to serve you for a lifetime- Yet God’s love has no limits-His love not only comes with a lifetime guarantee but His love has an Eternal Lifetime Guarantee-It exceeds boundaries of time & space. Your situation/challenges/mistakes do not change the nature of His love toward you...biblical illustrations of this Abraham, David, Saul of Tarsus-Paul)

*1 Corinthians 13:4-8 AMP*

*[4] Love endures with patience and serenity, love is kind and thoughtful, and is not jealous or envious; love does not brag and is not proud or arrogant. [5] It is not rude; it is not self-seeking, it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; it does not take into account a wrong endured. [6] It does not rejoice at injustice, but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail]. [7] Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening]. [8] Love never fails [it never fades nor ends]. But as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for the gift of special knowledge, it will pass away.*

**God’s love is unconditional and limitless.**

**Thirdly, we will look at the durability of God’s love…**

*Romans 8:31-39 MSG*

*[31-39] So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us-who was raised to life for us!-is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one. None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing-nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable-absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.*

(Expound on the reality that things are going to come against us in this life that will attempt to separate us from the reality of God’s love)

*Romans 8:31-32 AMPC*

*[31] What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?] [32] He who did not withhold or spare [even] His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely and graciously give us all [other] things?*

**A revelation of God’s love is the foundation for living a life free from fear.**

**God’s Word For Man’s Fears**

**To the Fear of Sickness & Suffering God’s Word declares…**

***Psalm 103:2-5 NASBS***

***[2] Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; [3] Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; [4] Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; [5] Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.***

**To the Fear of Lack God’s Word declares…**

***Psalm 34:8-10 NLT***

***[8] Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! [9] Fear the LORD, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. [10] Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the LORD will lack no good thing.***

**To the Fear of Loneliness God’s Word declares…**

***Matthew 28:20 NLT***

***[20] Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."***

**To the Fear of Failure God’s Word declares…**

***Philippians 1:28 NASBS***

***[28] in no way alarmed by your opponents-which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.***

**To the Fear of Judgement…**

***Galatians 3:13-14 NASBS***

***[13] Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-for it is written, "Cursed IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON a TREE"- [14] in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.***

**To the Fear of Death…**

***John 11:25-26 NASBS***

***[25] Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"***