

20210704 Sending the Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins
Deeper into Fellowship and Love Part 10
1 John 4:9-11

"... Meanwhile, where is God? This is one of the most disquieting symptoms. When you are happy, so happy that you have no sense of needing Him, so happy that you are tempted to feel His claims upon you as an interruption, if you remember yourself and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be — or so it feels — welcomed with open arms.

But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence.

You may as well turn away. The longer you wait, the more emphatic the silence will become. There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once. And that seeming was as strong as this. What can this mean? Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?

...Not that I am (I think) in much danger of ceasing to believe in God. The real danger is of coming to believe such dreadful things about Him. The conclusion I dread is not 'So there's no God after all,' but 'So this is what God's really like. Deceive yourself no longer.'" - C. S. Lewis "from A Greif Observed"

When we read the bible, we find God's people, in the middle of life's crisis, face the silence of God frequently, so they desperately ask God to speak up! For example,

Isaiah 64:12

Will You restrain Yourself at these things, O Lord? Will You keep silent and afflict us beyond measure?

Psalm 28:1

To You, O Lord, I call; My rock, do not be deaf to me, For if You are silent to me, I will become like those who go down to the pit.

Psalm 83:1

O God, do not remain quiet; Do not be silent and, O God, do not be still.

Psalm 109:1

O God of my praise, Do not be silent!

Three lessons from 1 John 4:9-11

Lesson number one: How did God show us His love?

Lesson number two: What did God do to prove His love?

Lesson number three: What can we do to dwell in His love?

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Lesson number one:

HOW DID GOD SHOW US HIS LOVE?

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

John chapter 1, verses 1 to 3:

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 8:58

⁵⁸ "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I AM!"

Romans 8:18

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Lesson number two:

WHAT DID GOD DO TO PROVE HIS LOVE?

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Isaiah 53:4-5

⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Lesson number three.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO DWELL IN HIS LOVE?

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Philippians, chapter 1, verses 9 to 11.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.