(Topics and Lead-in Below) Your Ceaseless, Unexhausted Love



TOPICS: God's Love; Assurance & Comfort; Praise & Worship

LEAD-IN: As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. (Psalm 103:11-13, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Hearing His Love

It's strange. When fear or anxiety just whisper within me, it sounds like thunder. I cower in their presence.

But God's love surrounds me and calls to me in so many beautiful ways, yet I tend to ignore it, or mistrust it, or fail to take it seriously. The Creator has enveloped my soul and senses in His love every second of my existence, yet I forget it so easily. I am warmed by his tender care through the touch of family and friends, yet I take this blessing for granted. He has flooded my being time and again with the glory of His forgiveness. Yet when I fail, I doubt His compassion and grasp my guilt. When my heart searches for security, I often look right past Him and search elsewhere.

Father, forgive my dullness, my ingratitude, and my self-centered unbelief.

What would happen if His love stood right next to me, right now, and spoke all it longs to say to me? What if God expressed His heart completely, all at once, directly to my heart, and I heard it all, with nothing lost in transmission? What if I could put my arms around His love and physically touch it...if it could saturate my mind...if I could be forever gripped by its reality?

In my failures, I would hear 1 John 1:9:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteouness. (NIV)

And Psalm 103:

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. (vv. 13-14, NIV)

When He calls me to spend time with Him in daily prayer, I would say with the psalmist, *You will fill with joy in your presence*. (16:11, NIV)

Day by day, in good times and trying times, I would know the powerful bond that holds us together:

I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. (Jeremiah 31:3, NIV)

And:

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! (1 John 3:1, NIV)

As God becomes more real to me, I pray that He opens my eyes and my heart to recognize the greatness of His love for me. And as I recognize His love, may I rest in it, and rejoice in it, and respond to it with all that I have and all I am.

Praise the Lord, O my soul;

all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's... Praise the Lord, O my soul. (Psalm 103:1-5, 22, NIV)

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