

Chapter 14

Face To Face With Jesus *You Need To Experience His Love*

You are built for love. God is love. Because you are made in His image, you need love as much as you need air to breathe. It is the lack of real love that has wounded you, and it is the presence of real love that has the power to heal you.

People are imperfect in the supply of love they give us. Sometimes they give us the love we need. But sometimes love is absent; sometimes it is sporadic; and sometimes it is counterfeit. Somewhere inside, children know the difference between the real thing and the counterfeit. They can sense whether they are being filled, or drained. Real love flows from the parent to the child, fills the child with life, and the child thrives. The counterfeit flows the other way, and sucks nourishment from the child. In this case the parent is attentive, but they are attentive because they need the child to fill the parent's unmet needs. The parent draws life from the child rather than giving to the child. The child starves, and struggles, and is wounded.¹ Real love gives, counterfeit love takes.

Jesus' love is always the real thing. It is genuine. If you could experience His love, you would be filled with life from the encounter, because the flow is always from Him to you.

Meeting with the living Jesus and receiving His love will heal you in a profound way.

And what if you could experience it often? Surely your cup would overflow. A goal of this book is to bring you to the place where you can meet with Jesus and receive His love. His presence is life, and it heals. In the moment that you receive the love of Jesus, everything else pales.

I can rationally and intellectually understand what friendship is, and in one sense I then "know" what friendship is. However, when a friend comes to me, and I experience their friendship, then I really

¹ All counterfeits by their nature are meant to look like the real thing. But they always have a fatal flaw in that they are not genuine. A counterfeit \$100 bill may look just like the real thing. The fatal flaw is that the bill was not issued by the government and is worthless. The fatal flaw in counterfeit love is that it is based upon the need of the parent, not the need of the child.

"know" what friendship is. It is then a "knowing" that is not just a thought, but it is a reality, an event, a "happening". It is not just in my head, but it is now planted in my heart. This is also true of "knowing" God. God does not want us to just know about Him, but rather He wants us to experience His presence. Then we really know Him. He is not a thought or a concept. He is a living personage who desires relationship with each of His children.

The Greek language of the New Testament is much more accurate in describing the different types of "knowing," whereas English only has the one word.²

Many times during prayer I have had clients actually come into the presence of Jesus. This experience writes on their heart the truth that God loves them. They realize they are important to Him, and in their heart is where they need to know it. When such an encounter occurs, they are changed.

One cannot be in His presence without being profoundly affected. People come out of such an encounter with a whole new awareness of who they really are, and they know in the depth of their being that Jesus loves them. They have experienced it. Words fail to describe this realization. When Jesus shows us anything, we know it is true. I suppose this is because He is Truth, and something inside us always knows this. Real love is what we have been yearning for and searching for all our life. Something inside us always knew it existed, even though we had not experienced it. So we know the real thing when we meet it.

You are built for love. You were wounded by a lack of love, and you receive healing when you experience real love. God is love, and so when you experience the presence of Jesus, you receive His love and healing occurs.

An Impediment

If you have been unable to experience the presence of the Lord, to be able to walk and talk with Him, The Wall is in the way. God's purpose for your life is to change you into the image of Jesus. And the most

effective way to accomplish this is for you to experience His presence, and to have a living encounter with Him on a regular basis. The Wall must be removed so that He can accomplish all of His work in you.

It Takes A Miracle

However, moving from your current situation to that place of intimacy with Jesus is not always easy. In fact, it requires a miracle. Or, more correctly, it may take a series of miracles. You may begin with many blockages; but as each blockade is removed, your ability to walk and talk with Him gradually becomes more and more clear. It is a process well illustrated in the scriptures.

So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, 'I see men like trees, walking.' Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. (Mark 8:23-25).

The journey toward seeing Him clearly is often like this. It usually takes a sequence of healings that Jesus orchestrates. There are steps along the way from being blind to seeing clearly. Along the way you may see partially, but gradually your connection with the Lord becomes clearer. This journey would be impossible without the leading of Jesus and His healing power. Your restoration is as much a miracle as the healing of this blind man.

The complexity of your journey stems from a combination of factors:

- **Your God-wannabe (fallen nature).**
- **Your having grown up in a perverse world system which is ruled by Satan, and is thus void of true love.**
- **The fact that Satan is real and his primary goal is to separate you from God.**

Things went radically wrong for all of us from the beginning, and the result is a big mess. Untangling your mess is beyond your ability. But the Lord knows the problem, and He has the cure. When you arrive at

the place where you can respond to His leading, you can follow Him down the path of healing He has laid out for you. This is the path of being changed into His image.

That is why your first focus must be to come into fellowship with Him. Until you are able to experience His living presence in your life, your journey is much more difficult.³

To Those Who Already Hear God

There are some Christians whose wounds are such that they interfere with their relationship with their Treasure Inside, but not so much with God. Thus they have a living relationship with Him, and they have an advantage over those who cannot hear God's voice. But they still need to recognize their alienation from themselves; and so they need to cooperate with the Lord as He leads them through the healing of their relationship with their Treasure Inside.

We Are Healed In Relationship

We, like God, are relational beings. We were wounded in relationships, and we can only be healed in relationships. A large proportion of our journey is meant to be walked out in our moment-by-moment personal relationship directly with God. And yet there is a special anointing that comes when praying with another person. I have found it to be true that our ability to experience the presence of the Lord is enhanced by the presence of others of like Christian faith. The Lord told us about this profound truth.

“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20.

³ **Ephesians 3:14-21**, *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end Amen.*

He Wants This For All Of Us

In wanting a personal, real, living relationship with the Lord, we are not begging the Lord to do something that He is reluctant to do. It was His idea. Jesus said this so eloquently.

"A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me." (John 16:17).

"... that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." (John 17:21-23).

Summary

The living presence of the Lord is where you were meant to dwell. Jesus wants it that way. And when you enter into His presence, you are changed. God's love heals.⁴

If you are unable to enter His presence, The Wall is in the way. Then The Wall needs to come down.

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me;" (John 17:24a).

⁴ Read Endnote #18-3 for a description of what love is.