

Session Five Assignment

Chapter: Live the Love Song

As I read this bridge chapter between Parts One and Two, I realized that if you don't have a heart for music or dance, then much of the imagery will ring a sour note for you. (See what I did there? ;) Whether you love music or find yourself indifferent, I do hope the Part Two chapters will entice your feet to move to the dance floor.

Key Point

The more you encounter God's love (the music) in your daily life, the better you get at walking out your life of faith (the dance).

- 1) After spending the past weeks focusing on the importance of knowing you are loved and experiencing His love throughout your daily life, are you watching for and encountering His love in new ways?

- 2) Life happens. Days get busy and even routine. The enemy has every intention of sidetracking your love journey. Knowing this, how can you intentionally keep your focus on the love of God in your day-to-day life, even after this study ends?

Next Steps: Look and listen for the music of His love. Ask God to open your eyes and ears each day to His pursuing love of you. Start a special page in your journal to keep track of these love encounters. These will be invaluable some day when life knocks you down and leaves you wondering where Love is.

- 3) Living loved is more than just "knowing" you're loved. Is the love of God beginning to trickle down from your head into your belief system?

- 4) Read Ephesians 3:17-19 and write verse 19 in the space below.

Verse 19 above states that until you go from knowledge to surpassing knowledge, something remains empty that needs to be filled. You were asked in an earlier chapter if you've ever wondered if there's more to your walk of faith than what you're currently experiencing. The answer to that question is always yes. We can be certain there is always more.

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5) As much as you may feel rooted and grounded in love (vs. 17), there are no limits to the depths (vs. 18) of God's love for you. Does it excite you to know that all your life can be spent going deeper still?

To gain a new view of God's love for you takes time. Our world-shaped minds (and hearts) must be transformed (Romans 12:2). Remember, like holding up a diamond to the light, there are many facets of God's love for you, each uniquely shaped to love you exactly as you need to be loved.

6) Write out a prayer based on Ephesians 3:16-21.

Key Point:

The real work is on God's shoulders. Your part is to show up each day and allow Him to lead you.

Write Philippians 2:12-13 in the space below.

7) Paul addresses his readers as “_____.” What two words make up this term of endearment? _____ + _____. Paul's words are not his own but Spirit inspired, so the word choice here isn't simply referring to Paul's love for them, but more specifically God's. The Word Himself also considers you (His disciple) to be His beloved, the one whom He loves (John 13:23).

8) Be. Loved. This is a state of being and living, not a state of doing, other than through your cooperation with the Spirit. What have you been taught “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” means, that this is referring to sanctification (becoming more like Jesus) or actual salvation (being saved from sin)?

John 3:16 states that God, because of His love for you, sent Jesus to do the work “of” your salvation. Working “out” your salvation has to do with your cooperation as you are being transformed into the image of Christ (2 Cor 3:18).

9) Remember, in Philippians 2:13, we are told it is _____ who is at work in you. Apart from Him, you can do nothing (John 15:5).

10) A few ways you can cooperate with the Spirit as He grows and transforms you into the likeness of Jesus are prayer, Bible study, listening, serving, obeying, and surrendering. Which of these examples have most impacted your growth recently or in the past?

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Key Point

Like Paul, we are all still a work in progress and need to press on (Philippians 3:12).

“The astute believer knows where they struggle, where they need the most work, and they invest their time and attention to making strides.” – You. Are. Loved.

11) Read Romans 12:3. Are you pliable? (Pliable: supple enough to bend freely or repeatedly without breaking – Webster) Can you think of yourself with sober judgment and admit where you struggle?

12) How can you strike a healthy balance between honesty before the Lord and harsh personal criticism?

13) In what areas of your faith walk do you feel you are making the most progress, and in which areas are you still a hot mess?

14) What assurance does Philippians 1:6 give you about your hot-mess struggles?

15) In the meantime, while you are waiting for your ultimate Philippians 1:6 moment, what daily activity can keep you pressing on and pressing into Jesus?

16) How can you press on and dwell with the Living Water through the Word of God, even in what feels like a dry season?

17) Why is it necessary that you continue to seek God through His Word even when you don’t “feel” like it or really want to?

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18) What does Isaiah 55:11 say about the faithfulness of God's Word, even when He seems quiet?

19) Recount a time when seeds were being planted through Scripture when you weren't consciously aware.

Key Point

Some issues you need to deal with can't be repaired until others are addressed.

I shared in the book chapter about my skunk. I talked in the video about the feeder root, that "thing" that needs to be addressed so that God can work on other areas of your life.

20) Can you think of any areas where my skunk imagery might apply to your life? Do you have something "big" that needs to be addressed so that the smaller things can work themselves out?

21) Read James 1:23-24.

Conclusion:

As we work through Part Two, you will encounter many verses that will give you the opportunity to see your face as in a mirror. You can't just be a hearer of the Word. You must learn to be a doer. When you see an area where you need work, don't just blow it off. Don't "forget what kind of person you are." Acknowledging where you don't measure up is the first step. *Humility* is a great word to insert here. Be humble enough to admit where you're missing the mark. Tell God you see it and are willing. Then you'll find He will give you many opportunities to work with Him in that area. Even if it takes years, that's okay.

You may not realize this, but this is actually where you'll find His love most evident, in the day-to-day walking out of your life of faith. When you blow it and He loves you anyway, what better proof of a Father's love? He will lovingly guide you and teach you and mold you into the woman He created you to be.

Write your thoughts about this conclusion.
