

LOVE SONG TAKEAWAY

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?

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.

- 2) 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?

- 3) 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.

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

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.

Key Point:

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

- 5) Read Philippians 2:12-13. 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 love for you. The Word Himself also considers you (His disciple) to be His beloved, the one whom He loves (John 13:23).

- 6) 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 born again, 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 Corinthians 3:18).

- 7) 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).

Key Point

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

- 8) 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?

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

- 10) 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?

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

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.

- 12) 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?
