

INCREASING OUR FAITH – 2
DECEMBER 4, 2016

REVIEW:

What produces the highest level of faith? Knowing the reality of: the integrity of God's Word, our redemption in Christ, being a New Creation, our righteousness in Christ, God's indwelling presence, God's love for us, the authority of Jesus' name.

CONTINUE:

GOD'S LOVE FOR US – JOHN 16:23-27

INTRODUCTION: Knowing the reality of God's love for us personally will take our faith to a higher level. It's easier to trust someone when we know they love us. In **MT. 7:7-11**, Jesus reveals God's love for His children being greater than earthly parents that love their children. When we understand this, our faith in God's willingness to keep His promises will increase. The question is how do we determine how much God loves us? Is it based on our experiences in life, or is something else the determining factor?

GOD'S LOVE HAS ENDLESS DIMENSIONS
EPH. 3:17-19, JOHN 3:16

1. Breadth – This refers to every person in the world. It includes every kindred, tongue, people and nation.
2. Length – Is seen in the incarnation. Christmas celebrates the greatest gift ever given. **2 COR. 9:15** – The gift of Jesus is so great, it's unspeakable or beyond words.
3. Depth – Is seen in the crucifixion. **JOHN 15:13** – In this dimension, God literally loved us to death. God held back none of His love for us.
4. Height – Is seen in the resurrection. **EPH. 2:5-6** – When God raised Jesus, He raised us up with Him.

GOD IS RESTING IN HIS LOVE – ZEPH. 3:17

1. The Lord thy God – The self-existent one who is in covenant with you is your all conquering hero who will save you from the power of sin, rejoice over you, and rest in His love for you. He will shout with joy over you!
 - A. **GEN. 2:1-3** – This doesn't mean God removed Himself from creation, it means God was pleased with all that He set in motion.
 - B. **JER. 5:20-22, PS. 104:9** – Love created all things and love was sustaining all things with words, laws and decrees.
 - C. Mans rebellion which was motivated by selfishness and self promotion brought a curse upon the earth and man.
 - Pain in childbearing, thorns and thistles, spiritual and physical death, tornadoes, hurricanes, tsunami's, sickness and disease – none of which show love!
 - D. **ROM. 8:19-22 (NIV)** – All creation cries out for freedom.
2. God so loved the world that He took His love to it's limits and sent His Word in human form to save it from decay and destruction.
 - A. **JOHN 1:1-5, 10-14** – Jesus was not just another prophet, teacher or role model. He was and is the creator, sustainer and savior of the world whose sacrifice of love redeemed us from eternal destruction.
 - B. The incarnation is the hypostatic union of deity and humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. God giving us Jesus is the greatest act of love ever manifested, and each of us is the object of that love.

CONCLUSION: God poured out His love for the world in the person of Jesus Christ who literally loved us to death. Now He is resting in that love believing people will respond to it by confessing Christ as Lord.