

Lesson 5



LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

READING:

1 PETER 1

STUDY TEXT:

1 PETER 1:8-9

THEME:

OUR GREAT SALVATION
(PART 5)

STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God
Promises of God
Principles for Life
Lessons to Learn
Examples to Follow

FURTHER STUDY:

LUKE 10:27
2 COR 5:1-10
HEBREWS 11

MEMORY VERSE:

1 PETER 1:8

PRAYER & PRAISE:

LOVING THE UNSEEN GOD

The scattered believers to whom Peter writes had never personally had contact with Jesus. However, they knew His character, sacrifice, resurrection, and ascension, and these truths were believed by faith.

Is it possible to love someone who you have never physically met? Absolutely! The love that proceeds from God is not based upon physicality or visible presence, it is an exercise of the will. When it comes to the person of God, we *"love [Him] because He first loved us"*.¹ Furthermore, we who are Christians have come to understand who Jesus Christ really is, what He accomplished on our behalf, and His glorious perfections. As we grow in our understanding of the Saviour, our love and worship for Him will also increase. He is truly LOVELY!

Since Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,² it would do us well to spend time studying each of His attributes as recorded in the Scriptures. Believers who concentrate their attention on Christ are conformed to His image *"from one degree of glory to another."*³

BELIEVING IN THE UNSEEN GOD RESULTS IN PROFOUND JOY

Peter writes, *"Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory."* (1 Peter 1:8). Thomas the disciple was not with the others when Jesus appeared to the group after the resurrection. In John 20:25 Thomas rashly said, *"Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."* After eight days as the disciples were meeting together, Jesus appeared to them again, and this time Thomas was with them. Having spoken with Thomas, Jesus concludes this interaction by saying, *"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*⁴

There is a "special blessing" promised to those who have trusted Christ by faith without sight, and it is a joy which surpasses all others. The words, *"joy that is inexpressible"* is a unique word in the Greek. It describes a joy so profound as to be beyond the power of words to express. A growing love and faith will bring unparalleled joy in this life!

GLORIFICATION ASSURED

At a fixed "time" in the "future", our faith will be swallowed up in sight. Jesus will return and *"we will see Him as He is"*.⁵ This will be the "end" or *"outcome of our faith"* - The crowning consummation, the redemption of our bodies, and freedom from the presence of sin, sorrow, and death.

¹ 1 John 4:19

² Colossians 1:15

³ 2 Corinthians 3:18

⁴ John 20:29

⁵ 1 John 3:2

SUMMARY

Like the believers of Peter's day, we too have never seen Jesus in the flesh. However, when first we trusted Christ, the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts God's divine love,⁶ and the free gift of faith to believe in Him.⁷ It is our privilege and responsibility to grow in both our love for Christ and our faith in Him. This requires focus, concentration, discipline, and sacrifice. There is an "abundant life" available to us here on earth, and it is a life of faith and love.

Daniel Whittle wrote, *"I know not how this saving faith to me He did impart, nor how believing in His Word wrought peace within my heart. But I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day."*

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. One seasoned preacher says, *"Biblical love is an act of the will, accompanied by emotion, that leads to action on behalf of its object."*⁸ Discuss this truth as it relates to our loving God.

2. What do the following texts all have in common, and how will they help us grow in our love and faith towards God? 2 Peter 3:18; Colossians 1:9; Philippians 3:10; Ephesians 3:17-19 (HINT: Look for words related to growth)

3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10. In the middle of this tremendous passage is verse 7. Explain in your own words what "faith" is, and what it means to "walk by faith".

4. The followings is an excerpt from a sermon on faith. Read and discuss each point with the accompanied passages of Scripture.

How can I grow in my faith? (A short synopsis of faith)⁹

- Faith begins, and is sustained by the Word of God (Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 2:2)
- Decide to exercise faith in God as an act of your will (Mark 11:22; 1 Peter 1:21)
- Walk in the Spirit (Acts 11:24)
- Submit to spiritual leaders who encourage your faith (Acts 14:22; 16:5)
- Local church fellowship (Romans 1:12)
- Be alert and hold fast to the faith (1 Corinthians 16:13)
- Practice faith in the unseen truth revealed in Scripture (2 Corinthians 5:7)
- Examine your faith and test its genuineness (2 Corinthians 13:5)

⁶ Romans 5:5

⁷ Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ Voddie Baucham "Love and Marriage Part 2".

⁹ Taken from a sermon by Daniel Kriss "The Journey of Faith" (30.12018)

- LIST ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE PASTOR BELOW**

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