

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Today's Message: **GOD'S LOVE** *
Pastor Gary Stump
Experiencing God—Reality 2

Psalm 30:5b (NKJV) Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

Song of Solomon 4:9 (NKJV) You have ravished my heart, My sister, my spouse; You have ravished my heart With one look of your eyes, With one link of your necklace.

If only we would realize God is inviting us into a loving, transforming, forgiving, empowering relationship with Him! Does that seem like it would be bad for you? Aren't we all longing to experience the love of God? Do you understand that you ravish God's heart? How can we fully experience God's overwhelming love? What happens if we get fully understand this truth?

Love was made to be experienced! This is the point of Experiencing God.

SEVEN REALITIES OF EXPERIENCING GOD:

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

Reality 2: God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.

I. GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU

Jeremiah 31:3 (NLT) Long ago the LORD said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself."

Psalm 103:8 (NLT) The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love...¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth...¹³ The LORD is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him...¹⁷ But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children's children

John 15:16a (NLT) "You didn't choose me. I chose you."

1 John 3:1a (NLT) See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!

Do you realize that the Lord does not just give you life—He is your life? (p. 92)

Colossians 3:3–4 (NLT) For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Acts 17:28 (NIV84) 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'

Philippians 1:21 (NIV84) For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Psalm 139:1–6 (NLT) O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. ² You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. ³ You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. ⁴ You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. ⁵ You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

Loved by a God Like You (Rick Stump)

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=rick+stump+loved+by+a+god+like+you

1 John 4:19a (NIV84) *We love because he first loved us.*

“What is the foremost thing God wants from you? He wants you to love Him with all your being.” (Blackaby, 92)

II. YOUR LOVE FOR GOD

Mark 12:29–30 (ESV) *Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’”* (Deuteronomy 6:4–5)

John 14:21 (NLT) *“Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”*

“If you have an obedience problem, you have a love problem.” (Blackaby, 90)

“God is far more interested in a love relationship with you than He is in what you do for Him.” (Blackaby, 45)

Song of Solomon 8:6–7 (ESV) *Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord.⁷ Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised.*

SO WHAT? Can you stand before God and describe your relationship to Him by saying, “I love You with all my heart and all my soul and all my mind and all my strength”?

Deuteronomy 30:19–20 (NLT) *“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!²⁰ You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the LORD, you will live long in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”*

Reflection Questions:

1. If you were standing before God, could you describe your relationship with him by saying, “I love you with all my heart and all my soul and all my mind and all my strength?” Yes or no.
2. If you can't remember a time when your relationship with God was real, personal, and practical, will you reevaluate your walk with Him?
3. Has there been a time in your life when you question God's love for you? Why is doubting God's love incorrect thinking?
4. What is God currently initiating in your life that you need to respond to?

Jesus waits for us to open the door... Revelation 3:20 (NASB95) *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”*

Dear Heavenly Father, when we think of the wisdom and scope of Your plan, we fall to our knees and pray to the You, Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. We pray that from Your glorious, unlimited resources You will give us mighty inner strength through Your Holy Spirit. And we pray that Jesus will be more and more at home in our hearts as we trust in Him. May our roots go down deep into the soil of Your marvelous love. And may we have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep Your love really is. May we experience the love of Christ, though it is so great we will never fully understand it. Then we will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from You. Now glory be to You, Father! By Your mighty power at work within us, You are able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. May You be given glory through our lives forever and ever through endless ages. In Christ's Name we pray. Amen."

* The messages in this series have been inspired and adapted from the book: Henry T. Blackaby; Richard Blackaby; Claude V. King. *Experiencing God* (2021 Edition). (B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition).



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ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

1. FAMILY CAMP SCHEDULE—SEPTEMBER 8-10

Blue Gate Garden Inn

800 S Van Buren St, Shipshewana, IN 46565
(260) 768-4725

FRIDAY

Check-In (earliest)	3:00pm
Dinner on your own	
Evening Program	7:30pm
Ice Cream Social	9:00pm

SATURDAY

Breakfast	7-9am
Morning Program	9:30am
Group Activity	11:00am
Free Time	Noon-5pm

Saturday—cont'd.

Dinner	5:00pm
Das Dutchman Essenhaus 240 US-20, Middlebury, IN 46540	
Evening Program	7:30pm
Free Time	9:00pm

SUNDAY

Breakfast	7-9am
Morning Program	9:00am
Check-Out	11:00am

2. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—Beginning Friday September 15th—Each Friday at 7am at MCA. Study in the book of Romans. See Alex Abell for more info.

3. LADIES BIBLE STUDY (Two Options):

- Beginning September 13th Wednesday Mornings @ 9:30am**—Each Wednesday morning at 9:30am at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers, IN 46038). Studying the book of Ephesians. For more info email Kathy at kathystump77@gmail.com.
- Beginning September 14th Thursday Evenings @ 7:00-8:30 pm**—Each Thursday evening at 7:00-8:30pm at Lynda North's house (9929 Brightwater Dr., Fishers, IN 46038). Studying the book of Ephesians. For more info email Lynda at LANorth7@gmail.com.

4. NEW GIVING QR CODE—If you would like to give online you can use this code →



Giving QR Code

5. YOUTH GROUP (Grades 6-12) RESUMES THIS EVENING 6-8PM: Dinner is served. Cost \$3.

6. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact nancy1108smith@gmail.com or 317-508-8149.

7. GIVE BIBLES IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE—The Gideons have provided a display on the counter in the foyer for you to give God's word in honor or in memory of a loved one.

8. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE—To make it easier for some to complete your Prayer Response Card... you can **scan this QR code.** →



Prayer Card QR Code