

Releasing the Love of the Father

- I. **To know God is to receive His love and give it to others (I John 4:7).**
 - A. Experiencing God's love is a spiritual, supernatural encounter of God's presence (I John 4:12-13; Romans 5:5; Romans 8:14-16).
 1. Example of the experience of Bilquis Sheikh in I Dared to Call Him Father.
 2. Example of Charles Finney
 - B. Our whole Christian experience and practice can be summarized by I John 4:14-16.
 1. Trusting in Jesus
 2. Knowing and relying on the love God has for us.

- II. **Staying in God's presence is the key to fulfilling God's commands, most of which revolve around loving others (I John 4:19 - 5:1-3).**
 - A. God's commands are not burdensome (I John 5:3; John 14:23).
 - B. Example of Bilquis Sheikh: "I will obey you. I've always thought it a sacrifice to give up my own will. But it's no sacrifice, because it keeps me close to you. How could your Presence be a sacrifice?"
 - C. Only God's love changes our appetites (Philippians 3:7-8).

- III. **When I am connected to God's presence, I can discern and release the Father's compassionate heart all around me. If God is doing anything in the world, surely loving it is His first priority (John 5:19-20).**
 - A. Something happens to our spiritual eyes for the world when we feel loved and accepted by God.
 - B. We commit ourselves to the family business. We have been appointed to bear much fruit with all the power of God at our disposal and the joy of Jesus in our hearts (John 15:15-17; Matthew 10:7-8; Luke 10:17-24).

Mike Hudgins
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