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Subject: Notes Email
Date: November 5, 2019 at 12:16 PM
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My Message Notes

Throughout this series we want to open our eyes to see God in a fresh way by reminding ourselves of who He is, what He desires and How He communicates with His creation.

In Plenty and Pain He Remains The Same

There are THREE primary ways people experience God's love today:

1. Prosperity
2. Peace
3. Pleasure

But very few who have followed God, or been used by Him in any meaningful way experienced His love in these ways. Most appear to have been poor, with problems, physical challenges and few experienced pleasure in this lifetime. Instead they were ridiculed, persecuted and faced one problem after another... but they never forgot God's love for them.

For more background to the book of Malachi, read the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah - Malachi came along after the wall and Temple had been rebuilt in their stories and as the people were trying to figure out how to live in this new reality - back home and in trouble.

Malachi 1:1-5

A prophecy: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi.

2 "I have loved you," says the Lord.

"But you ask, 'How have you loved us?'

"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob, 3

but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals.”

4 Edom may say, “Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins.”

But this is what the Lord Almighty says: “They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the Lord. 5 You will see it with your own eyes and say, ‘Great is the Lord—even beyond the borders of Israel!’

**The PRESENCE of pain in your life doesn't mean
the ABSENCE of God from your life**

Corey told the story of Corrie TenBoom and her sister Betsie in the concentration camp in Ravensbruck. The story was about God used fleas, as annoying as they were, to keep the guards out of the women's barrack they were in, which gave the women time and space to read from their bible and share Jesus with the women there.

Has there been a time in your life God has used an uncomfortable situation to help you see Him or help others see Him?

**Wealth and prosperity are not always signs of God's
blessing and difficulty is not always a sign of His
judgment**

It is easy to get so focused on your hardships that you no longer see God's hand at work in your life.

We need to be reminded that God is present even when things aren't perfect.

"Every day we need to wake up, look in the mirror and say, “I am the well-loved child of an all-powerful God who has my best interests at heart. No problem is too big for Him, no situation too hopeless for Him, and not even my mistakes (of which there are many) can stop His amazing grace from flooding my life. He is already giving me good things to enjoy, and I am going to find them and give thanks.”

Jud Wilhite - Central Church Las Vegas

You will experience Fresh Faith when you begin to see God's love in your everyday life.

1 John 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

And Jesus said in **John 14:23**

Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them and we will come to them and make our home with them.

God LOVES You!

We want you to know that you matter to God and us.

If you think you might be ready to make Real Life YOUR church home then Coffee with Corey is your Next Step. It's a casual conversation designed for newcomers to Real Life and you can register right [HERE](#) right now. It's Sunday evening, April 28th from 5-6pm

Need more help taking your next step?

1) Stop by the **CONNECTION HUB** in the back of the big room and a volunteer will help you discover your next step!

2) Fill out the **connection card** and leave it on your seat when the service is over. We'll pick it up and be in touch!

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