**Lessons from a Lockdown**

**Volume II**

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**Day 76**

**1 John 4:13-18**

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. What is my testimony about Jesus? What am I telling the world about Jesus?
2. How would I describe my relationship with God?
3. Do I rely on the love God has for me? Why do I say that?
4. Would people in my home or those closest to me say I am a loving person? Why?
5. Am I motivated by fear of God or love for God? Why?

***Insight:***

One of the things John repeats in his letter (can you identify the other principles he keeps on repeating?), is the idea of God being in us and us being in God. He describes the kind of relationship a Christian is supposed to have with God. God cannot simply be someone we talk to every now and then. We have to be closer to God than any human relationship we have. God must be a constant presence in our lives. He must be with us throughout the day. We strive to be with God all the time. We don’t do anything that can make us drift away from God. We make every effort to stay connected to him. We involve him in the things that we do and the decisions that we make. We reject any worldly pleasure that can distract us from our relationship with God. Does this describe our relationship with God? Having a relationship with God is more than having a quiet time every day. It is being united with him the same way that Jesus was united with the Father.

If we know God’s love we would rely on God’s love. Someone who relies on the love God has for him will not be afraid when trials come. We will be confident and not be overwhelmed even if the situation is beyond what we could handle. When someone hurts us, we do not take matters into our own hands or try to take revenge because we trust that God will vindicate us. When there is a scarcity, we won’t worry about our needs not being met. Are we relying on God’s love for us?

God is love. It is his very nature to love. When we love, we act like God. He is not just the God *of* love, he *is* love. Where there is love, God is there. When we have love, we have God. The best way to have God in our lives is to love. You bring God into your marriage when you love your spouse. You bring God into your parenting when you love your children. You bring God into your home when you love the people there. You bring God into our small groups when we love everyone in it. Where are we bringing God?

God enables us to love. We can’t love people without God. We might be able to like people without God, but we can’t love them. God and love go together. We are living in God if we are living in love.

Love is made complete among us if we are like Jesus. When this happens, we will have the confidence on the day of judgment.

We can be motivated to follow God by fear or by love. As parents we would prefer that our children love us rather than fear us. We would prefer our friends to love us rather than fear us. While in the beginning of our Christian walk we might start with godly fear, as we mature, we should be motivated more by love than by fear. With each passing year of our Christian lives we should understand more and more the grace of God. While in the past we might have been fearful of judgement day, as we learn more about the Scriptures, we realize that we have nothing to fear. While we may need to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, judgment itself is nothing to be afraid of. As we grow closer to our day of judgment, the more we should welcome it because at that point we will receive our reward. As we spend our years in faithfulness to God, we fear punishment less and less as we get excited to finally seeing our God face to face.

Let us fill our lives with love so there will be no room for fear.