

WHEN A KING IS IN LOVE

He Conceals His Power and Wealth While Revealing His Character

WHERE SELF-CENTERED HEARTS ARE INVOLVED, wealth and power are not assets to God's ultimate plan for us, but rather liabilities. Therefore, in the incarnation of Christ God concealed His fearful majesty and limitless wealth while fully revealing the beauty of His character, thus opening to our hearts the potential to serve Him because of who He is rather than because of what we can get from Him or for fear of the harm He may do us. By presenting to our hearts a selfless love worthy of our highest reverence and deepest loyalty, the incarnation and death of Christ rules out fear of punishment and desire for heavenly rewards as ultimately legitimate motives for serving God. While those motives may prompt our first approach to God, they are essentially self-centered and are therefore counter-productive to our complete healing from sin and our restoration to God's image. As long as the bottom line reason for my spiritual commitment is to escape Hell or to gain Heaven, the deepest level of the sin problem within me remains unresolved. God has higher and nobler plans in mind for you and me. The majestic and lowly God of Heaven does not desire a control over our behavior that appeals to our sense of self-preservation. Rather, it is His holy intention to turn our free wills to Him on the basis of His worthiness. He desires the free and willing love of our hearts, not a mere mechanical obedience. The plan of salvation has as its ultimate goal to completely restore in us trust and loyalty to God based on an intelligent assessment of His character.

The Divine Predicament

Exodus 33:20—You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me and live.

Revelation 22:4—They shall see His face, and His name shall be in their foreheads.

Isaiah 59:2—Your iniquities have separated between you and your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you.

Isaiah 6:1, 5—1I saw the Lord... 5So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

Daniel 10:8, KJV—My comeliness was turned in me into corruption.

God's Love Incarnate

Hebrews 1:1-3, NIV—1In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... 3The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being.

NOTE: "It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They behold the Savior's matchless love revealed throughout His pilgrimage on earth, from the manger of Bethlehem to Calvary's cross, and the sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues to soul" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 480).

John 1:14, 18—14The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. . . **18**No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

John 16:25-28—25These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. **26**In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; **27**for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. **28**I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

NOTE: This passage foretells the end of mediation due to the final and full realization that the character of love revealed in Christ is none other than the very love of the Father.

The Transforming Power of God’s Love

2 Corinthians 3:18—We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15—14For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; **15**and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Ephesians 2:8-10—8For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **9**not of works, lest anyone should boast. **10**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Galatians 5:5-6, KJV—5For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. **6**For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

NOTE: “Worketh” is *energeo*, meaning to energize. We are Saved by Grace through Faith that is energized by the revelation and comprehension of God’s love. Righteousness by faith=Love by trust.

Ephesians 3:14-21—14For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15**from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, **16**that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, **17**that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18**may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—**19**to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **20**Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, **21**to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 2:4—The goodness of God leads you to repentance.

1 John 4:19—We love Him because He first loved us.

“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9

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All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.