

# ALAN TAYLOR MINISTRIES

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## Trusting in the Father's Love

You need love! It is the most important nutrient of all. I feel that the world is starving for love; in fact the church is too. Each of us needs to know deep down in the depths of your heart that we are loved. Many people spend much of their lives reaching outside of themselves trying to satisfy their emptiness for even a little taste of love. Some people even get themselves in trouble, because they were starving for a touch of love. There is even an old song about "looking for love in all the wrong places."

It's sad to say that I feel the church has done a poor job of showing the beautiful, incredible love that is available from our Heavenly Father. This is a title that God gave Himself; He chose for us Christians to call Him Father. Jesus tells us in Matthew 23:9, "*Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.*"

His desire and His Heart is a relationship with us as children in His arms. Many of us grew up under a different idea of how to have a relationship with Him. I know my own understanding for years was me trying to be good enough for Him, always striving to offer good works and holiness as an offering to gain His love. The busier I was, the more I felt approved to receive His love, but if I ever slowed down I felt distant from Him. All of this was rooted in my own insecurities and unworthiness.

I lived in a place of constant striving for approval, in every problem I faced I began with wondering if I had yet gained enough worth for God to answer my need. I was trapped in a constant cycle filled with loneliness and struggles of abandonment. Every scripture I read was interpreted through this veil of unworthiness, and this caused me to not trust in God's direction, nor His help. I found myself searching for answers on my own instead of searching His direction, because I could not come up with enough evidence that I was good enough for His help.

I was looking at the wrong foundation. I was building the foundation of my faith upon my own works instead of the works of Christ. I knew the scriptures regarding the finished works of Christ, yet my heart continued to drag me down to believing from a position of unworthiness. The strength of our belief is built upon how we see our relationship with God. If your foundation is you, then your faith will always lack; but if your foundation is Him and His love for you, then nothing will be impossible.

His love for us must be the foundation of our faith, not our good works or achievements. It was God's love that caused the blood of Jesus to be shed, to make it possible for His Father to become your Father! It was God's love for you that caused Jesus to come and die in your place. 1 John 3:1 says, "*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*"

In this life, each of us are going to face giants that we must slay; especially if you are serving God. Giants of fear, Giants of lack, Giants of loneliness, Giants of sickness and so many more. Many believers are searching for a life free from these battles, but those giants are still roaming the earth, and they need to be slain.

When we face our giants, if our foundation is not built on love, then we will always lean to our own strength and wisdom. The answer is always love! His love for you, unconditional, never ending love that He has for you!

I used to start out every day feeling empty and distant from God. Then I would begin my work towards earning His love, and if I did really great all day then perhaps by night time I would feel worthy to receive His love. What a loss of years I experienced. I was always afraid that I was not good enough, constantly swimming against a river of rejection. I saw others and could see why God could bless them but never could I see that for myself. It says in 1 John 4:18-19, "*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.*"

I no longer start my day afraid. I no longer begin at unworthiness. I now walk every moment of every day surrounded and embraced by His wonderful love. I face every giant with a fearlessness that is birthed from knowing I have a Father who loves me and believes in me. He thinks about me every moment of every day. Even if I fail, He never changes toward me. I am loved because Jesus made it possible for His Father to become my Father. I have faith to overcome every battle that is built upon His love for me and not the works that I perform.

If you find yourself standing on the wrong foundation like I did, then I want to encourage you to look to your future and not to look at your past. You will not stay where you are forever.

It was when I spent time worshipping God, that my heart began to trust Him more and more. Simply spending time privately telling Him that I loved Him, that I adored Him and that I was thankful for Him in my life. Soon I started to notice that my heart was receiving His love instead of trying to earn it. Soon I noticed I was starting every prayer with confidence instead of fear. All of this was happening because of Love. I've been changed forever and if it happened to me, then it can happen to you too. Always remember that He is love and He loves you.

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