

Drawing Near (3)

Drawing Near — Beholding

Last week — Hayley Braun... a season of transition...

Fasting and prayer ... 40 days... coming out in the power

I. Drawing Near — 4 Practices that Will Change Your Life

A. Turn to Seek Him — Fasting & Prayer

(Repentance — **Transformation** of the Mind)

Zechariah 1:3 ... **Return to me**, says the LORD of hosts, and **I will return to you**, says the Lord of hosts.”

B. Listen — He is speaking... deliberate listening... you will start hearing and...

Listening Prayer

Love will INHABIT you... Faith will Grow ... You will be a victor not a victim.

Deuteronomy 6:4 “**Hear**, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ **You shall love** the LORD your God ... **Romans 10:17** So **faith comes from hearing...**

1 John 5:4 For **everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world**. And this is **the victory** that has overcome the world—**our faith**.

C. Give Thanks ... even in the dark... faith that His Kingdom is coming

Psalm 100:4-5 (ESV)

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise...

5 For the Lord is **good**; His steadfast **love** endures forever, and his **faithfulness** to all generations.

D. Behold — this will transform you

Ephesians 3:17 (ESV) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded **in love**,

II. Behold — Extraordinary Focus leading to Perception

Focus on an unusual object or person (beyond words, captures more than the mind) leading into Perception (to appreciate, recognize, grasp, be aware, realize).

A. Incarnation — Creator BECOMES HUMAN within Creation

John 1:14 NKJV

¹⁴ And the 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.

*θεάομαι: to observe something with continuity and attention. (implying a profound reality)

Invisible Creator enters, becoming part of creation... mystery ... purpose ... indwell ... koinonia

B. Redemptive, Sacrificial Purpose — The Lamb of God

John 1.29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “**Behold**, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Rev. 5 Who is worthy, weeping, Lion, slaughtered Lamb, a NEW SONG... worthy, you were slain, have redeemed, made us kings and priests to our God, and we shall reign on the earth. (verses 1-10)

C. BEHOLD the Love of God

Revelation of “His chesed is forever”

1 John 3:1-3 ESV

^{1a} **See*** what kind † of **love** the Father has given to (lavished, bestowed on) us, **that** —>

* ἰδετε: ...look closely at something astonishing, to take special notice, to pay attention to, to concern oneself with, to experience an event or state. †—outside of previous experience

Transformation (rebirth and new creation)

1 John 3:1-3 ESV

^{1b} we should be called **children of God**; and **so** we **are**. **NIV** — And that is what we are! **NASB** — and in fact we are.

Already... not Yet Tension (Process)

1 John 3:1-3 ESV

The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (it's foreign to the system)

² Beloved, we **are** God's children **now**, and what **we will be** has **not yet appeared**; but we know that when he appears **we shall be like him**, because we **shall see** him **as he is**.

Sanctification (conformation)

1 John 3:1-3 ESV

³ And everyone who thus **hopes in him** (has this hope in Him) **purifies** himself **as he is** pure.

Behold, Gaze upon, Fill your Heart and Imagination with Agape LOVE. This is the soil and the foundation of the New Creation.

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for **love** is **from God**, and whoever **loves** has been **born of God** and **knows** God.

III. Victory — Knowing, Believing, Living in Love

1 John 5:4 For **everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world**. And this is **the victory** that has overcome the world—**our faith**.

1 John 4:16a So we have come to **know*** and to **believe**†† the love that God has **for** us. ...
*γινωσκω—experiential knowledge †† πιστεύω — complete trust in, reliance upon, clinging to (a person or quality).

“his **his emunah** to all generations”

4:16b God is love, and whoever **abides** in love **abides** in God, **and** God **abides** in him.

Interactive, Mutual state of God and His beloved believers [Triskele Image]

Perichoresis (περιχώρησις "rotation") is the relationship of the three persons of the triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to one another. Περι Χωρεω — move (ment), progress (ion), have room for, make space, respond. We participate in **the divine procession**, when we REMAIN in LOVE.

John 14:20 (ESV) In that day you will **know** that I am **in** my Father, and you **in** me, and I **in** you.

17 By **this** is love perfected with** us, **so that** we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ** μετά — among (relational)

18 There is no fear in love, but **perfect love casts out fear**. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

19 We love because he first loved us.

A. MORE than an attribute (as in God has love), LOVE is ESSENTIAL.

Love is relational, interpersonal, absolutely affectionate and beneficial. The Greek word, AGAPE (ἀγάπη) is somewhat equivalent to the Hebrew word CHESED (חֶסֶד) KJV mercy, kindness, loving-kindness and for steadfast love, loyalty, etc. in more recent translations.)

B. Residing, abiding, living, remaining in LOVE is ultimate freedom.

All things are possible with God [Matt 19:26](#) ...to him who believes [Mk 9:26](#)

All things are given to Jesus, declared to us [John 16:15](#)

[Romans 8:28](#) (ESV) And we know that for those who love God **all things** work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

[Romans 8:31](#) (ESV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us **all things**?

[Eph 1:3](#) blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ

It is participation in the divine nature, the endless dance of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:3-4 NIV

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his **very great** and **precious promises**, so that **through them** you **may participate** in the **divine nature**, having **escaped the corruption** in the world caused by evil desires.

We participate in the divine nature, when we REMAIN in LOVE.

C. How to Stay in Love

KNOWING — experiencing, encountering, discovering that

He is hidden in the darkness but omnipresent, and that He is IN you — Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

He is a shield AROUND you,

His LOVE is FOREVER under your feet. It is the soil in which the seed of every promise takes root and grows into abundance.

He is only and always GOOD... He only and always LOVES you freely and generously

BELIEVING — completely relying upon the realities (promises) of

God's infinite power, wisdom, goodness, affectionate, generosity, enduring kindness and love toward you, for you, and in that.

The PROMISE that He will NEVER leave you, NEVER forsake you.

Questions?

Do you trust his loyal love with all your heart, at all times, in every situation, within every circumstance?

What if every set back has within it a set up for advancement?

What if every breakdown has within it the potential for a breakthrough?

What if the only thing that can defeat you is your own despair?

The victory that overcomes the world — even our FAITH.

FAITH gives thanks in all circumstances. FAITH finds a reason to rejoice always.

FAITH prays without ceasing because it is the DEEPEST expression of returning LOVE to God with all your heart.

TRUSTING that God EXISTS and that He is a REWARDER of those who who diligently seek Him.

FAITH is the TITLE DEED, the substance, the realization, the confidence, the conviction, the assurance of the things we HOPE for, things we can't yet SEE.

We trust HIM! HE is GOOD. HE is LOVE. HE so loves every person and all creation that He sent his unique, one of a kind, only begotten son to be the Lamb of God, to take away the sin of the world, to destroy the works of the devil (the liar),

SO that WHOEVER would truly TRUST and RELY (faith; *emunah*) in Jesus would not perish, but would be born from Heaven, become a child of God, and NEVER perish but have the eternal, abundant, beyond anything we can ask, pray, or imagine, ZOE LIFE of God.

When you DISCOVER Him inside the problem, the concealment disappears.

HE is walking WITH you through the VALLEY of the shadow of death.

HE is the DOOR of HOPE in the VALLEY OF TROUBLE.

When you are suffering, and you are aware of the PRESENCE OF GOD, the suffering dissolves into the FULLNESS of JOY. When HIS LIGHT shines in our darkest place, the darkness vanishes and the shadowing doubts scatter.

What if every difficulty is an INVITATION to bring HIM into another area of your life? He will fill all that you make available. This is participation in HIS affectionate love, his joyful goodness,

ABIDE... DWELL... LIVE... RESIDE in this ESSENTIAL REALITY

WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE, LIVES IN GOD...