



LIVING IN THE EMBRACE

California West Coast Conference
Graham Cooke - July 9, 2011 Saturday Evening Session

Father, thank You. No one loves us like You love us. No one understands us like You understand us. No one sees us in the way that You see us. No one thinks so wonderfully of us as You. You are the One who calls us beloved, precious, treasure. You also call us a peculiar people, but we will talk about that.

No one sees such incredible value in us as You do. No one ever paid such an awful price as You so that we could belong, we could believe, so that we could become the beloved, the Bride. No one has ever put such a price on us before as You. So right here, right now in our hearts, we just celebrate You. We say thank You. We are not sure what it all means yet, but we are most willing to find out. We are willing to explore. We are willing to pursue even as we, ourselves, are being pursued by You. We are willing to discover all that is in Your heart for each one of us.

It is a wonderful thing to belong to You. Lord Jesus, we thank You for paying such an astonishing price, for shedding Your blood, for giving of Yourself, for being willing to be separated from the Father so that we would never have to be. Thank You.

Holy Spirit, You are the resident genius of Heaven. You are the One who makes it all work on earth. Thank You for Your role in our life. Thank You that You are so relentless. You love Your job. You love empowering us to become like Jesus, so we give You permission tonight to come brood over us, touch us, breathe on us, inspire us. Help us to see who we really are in the eyes and the heart of the God head for Jesus' sake. He deserves a people in the knowing, so we ask it in His name. Amen.

Several people asked me after this morning's session about the whole thing about prospering in hell which is pretty outrageous, huh? People used to say, if you are going through hell, move quickly. The reality is, Jesus gave us a whole new paradigm for that. The very idea that we can go through something awful and come out with something wonderful – only God can do that.

Revelation 2:1-5: The last verse sounds pretty harsh, but the injunction is, remember when you are supposed to live from and think again. In other words, get your mind and your heart back to the place where you really ought to always live from and do the deeds you did at first. When you really connected with first love, you become a worshipper.

God is not seeking evangelists. He is not seeking apostles or prophets. He is seeking worshippers. Your primary mission, your primary ministry, is to love the Lord your God with all your mind, soul, mind, and strength. It is to worship. Our primary calling is to rejoice, give thanks, give praise, to worship the Lord with all our heart. We are worshippers as our primary call.

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When He says to do the deeds you did at first, it is a calling us back to the place of intimate affection, of intimate rejoicing, and thanksgiving and worship as a lifestyle. Or He says, I will come to you and I will remove your lampstand. Lampstand simply means the place of revelation.

What He is saying is, if you don't come back to the place of first love and do the deeds you did at first, I won't give you anymore revelation until you live in the revelation I've already given you. There is nothing there about losing your salvation or anything else. It is just God being practical – *I can't give you any more if you are not living in what I've already given you. So stop pursuing truth for truths sake and pursue worship for My sake* is basically what He is saying.

The church at Ephesus is a good hard working church. They are really into building the Kingdom. They are really into setting up the cities and the regions round about. They are a good hard working church, but they've left their first love. They got into ministry rather than worship. You end up with a great working relationship with God, but a lousy friendship.

It is the easiest thing in the world to do. You get caught up in the job. You get caught up in the ministry. You get caught up in how you are serving and one of the things that seems to fall by the wayside is that worship is our prime vocation. And we cease to worship because we have all this stuff to do.

Good hardworking church, Ephesus, but they were in danger of missing it, so the Lord was giving them a friendly tap on the shoulder. You need to change this because it won't be good for you. *Remember from when you have fallen, repent and do the deeds you did at first.*

The way we come into salvation is the way that salvation is sustained.

You didn't decide one morning, *it is a beautiful Tuesday, the sun is shining, I think I'll get saved.* It didn't happen that way. God sent some weird person to talk to you and now you are one. Somebody invaded your world with the message of the Gospel and something happened on the inside of you and you had to respond. So, God initiated something and you responded.

The way you come into salvation is the way that salvation is sustained. Which means, God is always the initiator and you are always the responder. So the key thing for us is always to be listening – always to be attentive.

One of my best friends, his uncle was one of the prime attendants of Queen Elizabeth II. His job was to wait outside the Royal apartment and when she rang the bell, he would go in and see what she wanted. He spent all of his time attending, waiting on sovereignty, waiting for a sound. And when that sound came, he would go into the presence of Her Majesty and inquire what she wanted.

That is a good example of who we are. We are attenders. We are people who are waiting on the Lord. Often we are waiting in worship, in prayer, in rejoicing – just that wonderful application of turning and yielding our hearts to the Lord every hour, just checking in, just learning out to hang out with Majesty and wait for that sound. God initiates and we respond.

The passion of God for us comes out of His kindness towards us in Christ. And that kindness began a long time ago – even before the earth was formed. Revelation 13:8 says, *All who dwell on the earth will worship Him*

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whose names have not been written in the book of Life of the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world.

Think about that. Jesus was slain before the foundation of the world. What does that mean? It means before Genesis 1:1. Before God said, *Let there be light*. Before mankind was even a twinkle in God's eye it was purposed that Jesus would come and die for the sins of humanity that had not even been created yet.

Now that is intentionality. If you and I were God and we knew it was going to go that pear shaped, we would have said, *Forget it! Let's just make another Jupiter.*

Jesus was slain before the foundation of the world. I think that is one of the most profound things I've ever thought about. I've often wondered, what did that conversation look like in Heaven? They hadn't even made anything. There wasn't even any *tohu bohu* to go around. *Tohu bohu* just means without form and void. And the great thing about *tohu bohu* is that when everything is in confusion, you know one thing is happening, the Holy Spirit is brooding. If your life is in some kind of transition or confusion right now or chaos – the Holy Spirit is almost bound to be brooding over you right now – looking to create something in all the chaos.

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Change is all about something external happening. Transition is always about something internal happening. So when you go through transition it is your own spirit that is actually getting an upgrade. It is your relationship with God. It is your attitudes; it is your lifestyle in Jesus. It is your thought life. They are all going through transition so you can make the changes that need to be made and then you can affect the people around you so the change is becoming exponential.

God initiates. We respond.

I John 4:19: *We love Him because He first loved us.* It takes God to love God. Only God can love God. The wonderful thing about God is, whatever He commands of you, He has to give you first. God cannot make a demand on you that He does not intend to resource. Only God can love God. So if God wants love from you, you have to receive love from Him. That is how the Kingdom works.

James says it like this: *Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of lights with Whom there is no variation or shifting shadow,* He is always the same. John the Baptist put it this way – *A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to Him from Heaven.* You get the picture? God gives. You receive. Then you give back to Him what you have received from Him.

At least that is how Paul describes it in Romans 11:35, 36. He says this, *Who has first given to Him that it may be paid back to him again?* Rhetorical question. The answer is, No one. Then he says this, *For from Him, through Him, and to Him are all things.* So what happens in the Spirit is, the Father gives to the Son in you, and the Son in you gives back to the Father. From Him, through Him, to Him are all things. Everything the Father wants from you, He intends to give you first.

So the command is also a blessing. The command is also a promise. The command is also a resource and provision. That is why the commandments of God are so incredible. Whatever He asks of you, He intends to give you first.

I Corinthians 8:6: *Yet for us, there is but One God, the Father from Whom are all things and we exist for Him and there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, by Whom are all things and we exist through Him.* Everything comes to us from the Father. Welcome to life in the Spirit. Everything God wants from you, He fully intends to give you. No one can give anything to God something which originates in themselves.

So the injunction in Revelation is that you have left your first love – you have left how life in the Spirit really works. It is the easiest thing in the world to get away from grace and start living in good works as a performance mindset to try to get something from God. That is what we call religion in these days.

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Religion is you trying to give God something, hoping you will get something in return. Salvation has never worked that way and it will never work that way because God is no man's debtor. He likes to be the Giver. He likes you to be the receiver, and then He likes to give what you give to Him. How many of you when your kids were small gave your kids money to buy you a gift on your birthday? So where did you get that from? It is in your DNA because you are a created being. It is exactly the same principle and you do it just like that.

This is how we live in the Spirit. We need to be the best people in the world at receiving from God. And then we need to be the most lavish people in the world in giving back from God. It works with everything. Especially money. It is fabulous to give money to God. It is the most sensible thing in the world you could do.

My daughter knew at 17 when we went to church, she said, "Dad, stop at the bank." She would be standing outside the ATM asking the Lord, "How much do You want me to put in the offering?" At 17 she knew that if she let God put His hand in her pocket, that she could put her hand in His pocket when the time came and He paid a better rate of interest than the bank. She said, "Dad, it is better to bank with Jesus than to bank with Lloyd's (the name of their bank in England)." It is better to bank with Jesus because He pays a better rate of interest.

You cannot out give God. You can try. It is a good game, but you will never win because He gives back pressed down, shaken together and running over. He simply will not allow you to out give Him but He loves the challenge.

It takes God to love God. Only God can love God properly and that is the intention of God. That is why He put you into Christ and Christ into you. So that the God in you – the Son could love the Father. The Son in you could serve the Father wholeheartedly. And the Father could give to the Son everything the Son in you needs to get the job done.

You are the fourth member of the Trinity. That sounds a little Irish. You are the fourth part of a three-fold cord. Your life is inextricably woven into Jesus and you cannot be separated from Him. You are in Him learning to be Christ-like and loving it because the hardest part is to get rid of all the stuff you don't want in yourself.

Being restored to *first love* means returning to a lifestyle of allowing yourself to be wonderfully loved. It is important for us to repent of performance and be restored to a life of responding to passion.

There is something about you that the Father finds irresistible and Jesus absolutely adores, and the Holy Spirit is completely committed to. Here is the problem for us though; we have used our own feelings to define God's

heart towards us. How we have felt that God feels about us is where the enemy has stepped into our emotions and he has dulled our celebration of who God is for us.

The enemy knows that the first commandment is greater than the great commission. Perhaps the sin of evangelicalism, speaking as an evangelical who is proud to be an evangelical – the sin of evangelicalism is that we have put the great commission ahead of the first commandment. The great commission is the second commandment.

The first commandment is that *you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength*. We are here to be worshippers. And we have built 'seeker sensitive' churches that don't know how to seek the Lord. But you know, God is faithful and we are changing. We are getting it.

When we allow the enemy to step into our emotions, all we hear is the sound of shame, the sound of low self-esteem, the sound of being unworthy. And we allow those sounds to keep us away from God's true heart for us. We need to hear the sound of God's heart. We need to come into God's feelings for us and upgrade our emotions to His. God gave us emotions and He wants us to pay attention to His emotions for us.

If you want to know what the Holy Spirit sounds like, read Galatians 5, the fruit of the Spirit. He sounds exactly like that. Loving. Joyous. Peaceful. Patient. Kind. Gentle. Faithful. He sounds exactly like that.

First love is about being restored to God's passion for us. And that passion is defined by the way the Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father. In Matthew 3 in His baptism, Heaven opened, the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form, and a Voice was heard saying, *This is My Beloved Son in Whom I'm well pleased. Listen to Him*. In Matthew 17 at the Transfiguration, again the same thing, *This is My Beloved Son in Whom I'm well pleased*.

In John 12 when Jesus is foretelling His death, His whole attitude is, "What should I say to the Father? Should I say, 'Save Me from this hour?' No. This is what I say, 'Father, glorify Your Name.'" And a Voice was heard saying, "I have glorified It and I will glorify it again."

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to God's passion for us.

When the Father put us into Christ, our walk with God was decided by His passion for Jesus. John 1:12 says, *As many as received Him, He gave them the right and the power to become children of God*. The purpose of God was to *bring many sons into glory*. (Hebrews 2:10) And we have received the spirit of adoption and our language moves across the range of Abba Father. We learn how to say, *Abba*. We learn now to live as much loved children.

Remember, it is a paradox not a paradigm. Growing up in God doesn't mean that you stop being childlike, it means you remain childlike but you also become a fully matured son. It is both ends. Being childlike is your default position. My default position is that I'm a much loved child.

Thirty years ago in Germany, in a place called *The King's Winter Palace*, I was doing a series of prophetic meetings and this elderly lady, very wrinkled, on a walker, came out to me, looked up at me, punched me on the arm, and she said, "I have a prophetic word for you. All your life you will be a much loved child and you will beat the enemy. And all your life in the Spirit, you will be a small child with a sauce pan on your head with the handle turned to the back and you will have a wooden spoon in your hand and you will beat the enemy back and blue. All the while you will be a much loved child." And she hit me again! Someone drew me the

cartoon of that – a little guy in short trousers and a vest, with a sauce pan with the handle turned to the back and a wooden spoon in his hand, yelling, “Come back! I haven’t beaten you enough!” So for me, that has been my default position.

When I’ve been under severe pressure, when I’ve been under severe attack, my default position is, I am a much loved child and I can so kick the enemy’s butt. Because I don’t have to be strong, I just have to know Someone stronger than you. I don’t have to be big; I just have to know Someone big. I don’t have to be powerful; I just have to be friends with the most powerful person in the universe.

Your default position is that you are a much loved child. A default position is a place that you cannot fall below. No matter how many hits you take, no matter how many times you get knocked out of your stride, you can only get knocked back to your default position which is also the place you rebound from. If push comes to shove, I can still win by being a kid. That is a pretty good place.

Jesus demonstrates real Sonship as the Beloved.

The Bible says we are a new creation, II Corinthians 5:17. That we are walking in newness of life, Romans 6:4. We are a new man, Ephesians 2:15. We are a new self, made in the likeness of Christ, Ephesians 4:24. We are a new self, renewed in the knowledge according to the image of the One who created him. Colossians 3:10.

This is the new creation that Jesus came to fully introduce in Himself. It is why He became a man so He could step into our struggle and upgrade us to His relationship with the Father. And that is the most brilliant thing about Jesus – He loves to step into your struggle and give you an upgrade. And your place of upgrade is, you get upgraded to the place to His relationship with the Father. That is the beauty of being in Christ and the wonder of Christ being in you.

Remember it has to be bigger than anything you could possibly imagine or think. So the crucial message in this whole thing about first love is a mixture about John 15 about abiding and John 17 about oneness with the Father.

In John 15:9, Jesus says this, *Just as the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you.* In exactly the same way, which means, Jesus doesn’t love you according to who you are or according to what you do, He loves you according to the way that the Father loves Him. So His love for you is not based on your performance, your success, or anything. It has not even got anything to do with you. He loves you according to the way that the Father loves Him. So Jesus loves you in the way He Himself is loved. That is first love.

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He loves you according to the way that the Father loves Him.

In John 17:21-26 Jesus said, *That they may all be one even as You Father are in Me and I in You, that they may also be in Us so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory that You have given to Me, I have given to them that they may be one just as We are one. I in them and You in Me that they may be perfected in Our unity so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You have also loved Me. Father, I desire also they whom You have given Me be with Me where I am so that they might see My glory which You have given Me for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. Oh righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You and these have known that You sent Me. I have made Your name*

known to them and will make You known so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them and I in them.

First love is this: It is the love that existed between the Father and the Son before the world even came into being. First love, therefore, is the love the Father has for the Son and the Son has for the Father. So when Revelation says, 'Return to your first love,' it means return to the place where you are the Beloved because you exist in the space between the Father and the Son.

First love is where the Father loves Jesus in you and Jesus in you loves the Father back in return.

First love is where you become part of Their relationship and you love it.

The phrase 'that they may be one' occurs 5 times.

1. That they may have the same oneness as the Father and the Son.
2. That they may live in Us.
3. That they may be one with Our glory.
4. That they may be perfected in Our unity.
5. That they may see My glory in the way that You love Me.

We have permission to step into a place with God never before made available until Christ. That is the new creation. We exist in a place so incredible, so powerful, so anointed, so awesome that it changes the very fabric of who we are as individuals.

In John 17:24 and John 15:9 we get the real definition of what first love really is in the heart of God. *Just as the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Father I desire also whom You have given Me be with Me where I am so that they may see My glory which You have given Me for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

DEMONSTRATION OF ABIDING - A VISUAL PICTURE

You will need someone to represent the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and an individual.

Say to the person representing the Father:

I want you to be thinking about Jesus and the way you love Him. That He is your Beloved Son, that you have always loved Him, that you are delighted in Him. So I want you to get that kind of feeling in your heart.

The two people face each other.

The Father has eyes for Jesus. He loves His Son. He absolutely adores Him. Everything about Jesus thrills the Father to bits. And the Son absolutely adores the Father. Everything in the Son just wants to serve the Father – He only wants to do what the Father is doing, He only wants to say what the



Father is saying – He is so wrapped up in His Father and the two of them are absolutely wrapped up in each other.

And then there is the Holy Spirit – big group hug! This is what happens when you get saved.

Now, the child of God – you – the Beloved comes. The role of the Holy Spirit is to bring you and put you into the space between the Father and the Son.

So that when the Father looks at Jesus, He loves you. When Jesus looks at the Father, He is loving you. And the role of the Holy Spirit is to make sure that you stay there. The role of the Holy Spirit is to teach you to abide in first love.

So this is what it means to be restored to first love, you occupy the space between the Father and the Son so that you live in utmost affection. So that every day in your life no matter the situation, no matter the circumstances, you know you occupy the place of highest affection. That you are being bathed in first love between the Father and the Son. That is the space you occupy. It is incredibly difficult – impossible almost – not to be loved in that place. It is the Father loving the Son in you and the Son in you loving the Father back. The Holy Spirit is teaching you how to stay so that you can hear the heartbeat of God, so that you can hear the Father speaking to you. Here is the point, the Father is always speaking to the Son. Always. So **the reason the Father puts you into Jesus is so you would always hear His voice, you would always know His affection, and you would always know that you are the Beloved.**

The reason the Father puts you into Jesus is so you would always hear His voice, you would always know His affection, and you would always know that you are the Beloved.

First love is not about you and your struggle. It is not about you and what you are coming out of. It is not about you and any bondages or anything else. First love is about you receiving the Father's love for the Son and the Son's love for the Father. It is like you get a double portion. And the Holy Spirit's job is to teach you to stay there, to dwell there, to live there.

First love is the love the Father has for the Son. So here is the word of the Lord, it is not about you. It is not about your performance. It is not about your capacity to rise up as a Christian. It is about you being caught up between the Father and the Son. The whole reason that you are the Beloved of God is because Christ is in you and you are in Him and the Father adores you for that reason.

Jesus loves you in exactly the same way that He Himself is loved. That is the good news. That is the glad tidings of great joy. You are the Beloved, not because of what you do for God, but because of what the Son means to the Father and the Father means to the Son. And the Holy Spirit's role in your life is to teach you to abide, to stay, to be the Beloved.

So, in the book of Revelation, when the Spirit says to the church at Ephesus, *You have left your first love*, what He is saying to them is, *for some weird reason, you are trying to perform your way into God's good graces. You are trying to work your way into the heart of God.* It doesn't work that way. You have left the place of utmost affection and now you are out there, trying to earn it.

One of the things we have to kill as part of our old nature is that whole performance based Christianity. When you are living in first love, you will do the things that God wants you to do, but you will do them because you

are the Beloved. When you are not living in that place of first love, you will be trying to do some things because you will fall from the grace of being the prodigal and you will become the elder brother and you will be a servant of the Lord, but He doesn't want a servant, He wants a son. *You are My Beloved Son, in Him I am well pleased.*

Many years ago, every time God said those words to me, I would cringe. I would think of all the reasons why I wasn't a good son. One day the Lord said to me, "Would you just quit it? For goodness sake son, you are dead. I'm talking to a new boy. I'm not talking to an old boy. I'm talking to a new son. You are in Christ and Christ is in you. I love you for that reason. I want you to enjoy the affection I have for Jesus and I want you to enjoy the affection He has for Me."

I think that is called a double portion. Your great joy and pleasure is to be wrapped up in the relationship between the Father and the Son feeling the pressure of the Holy Spirit's hands upon your shoulders just saying, "Stay. Just stay. Learn to live in this place. Return to your first love. Return to the place of your absolute affection and understand how this relationship works. Only God can love God. Let Me love you in such a way that you will love Me back with the love that I gave you." It takes God to love God. That is why He put you into Christ so that you could always return to Him the very thing that He initiated in you.

So, life in the Spirit is a joyful journey in receiving and returning. Giving what God gives you, learning to live in the space between the Father and the Son, learning to be affected by the affection that They have for One another.

I think our problem in the modern church is that none of us have ever stepped into that place. The truth is, our life in the Spirit can only reach its highest expression of glory inside the context of the relationship that the Father has for the Son. I want you to have it fixed in your mind and your heart that there is a place where you stand between the Father and the Son where you can see the glory of God for yourself. You can begin to experience the grace, the blessing, the favor, the certainty, and the confidence because you know that you know that you know that you know that you are the Beloved of God, not based upon your performance, but based upon your placement in Christ.

Jesus loves us in the same way that He is loved and the goal of the Holy Spirit is to empower us to abide there.

Jesus loves us in the same way that He is loved and the goal of the Holy Spirit is to empower us to abide there. To stay. To dwell. Remain. To exist from that place. Literally the work of the Spirit is to teach us to live in the embrace of the Father and the Son. There is no better place to be. There is no sure or certain place to live than there. All your blessing, all your favor, all your anointing flows from that place. It is the place of absolute confidence that you know that you know that you know I am the Beloved.

PRAYER:

In Jesus' name, I bind that religious spirit that says, "My love is dependent upon my performance." I take authority over that elder brother spirit in the name of Jesus that is trying to earn its way into the affections of God. I bind your power, I break your power – you wicked spirit – I bind you and break your power and your hold over our mind and our heart now in the name of Jesus and I declare that you ARE the Beloved because you are in Jesus and He is in you. The Father loves the Son in you and He is fully committed to that life. And I loose an encounter with God into your life that you may have an encounter with Him in first love and that you

may have an ongoing experience of first love every day for the rest of your life. That you would know that THIS is my portion in Israel. This is my portion. It is to be fully loved even as the Father loves the Son. That I am to be fully loved even as the Father loves the Son and Jesus loves me. That I am caught up in the embrace of the Father and the Son and I am going to explore that for the rest of my life and I am going to pursue that revelation. I am returning to *first love*. Father, I ask that every person here and all those listening, I ask that we would have a radical encounter with the first love of God. That that encounter would set us up for ongoing, continual, upgraded experiences of what that relationship looks like, feels like, sounds like. That we may know that we may know that we may know that we are fully loved even as we are fully known. That we may know that we are the Beloved of God and we live in this place of affection. And from that place there is a confidence, a certainty about who we are in the Kingdom and about our place in the world as we abide in Christ. Father, I pray that our spiritual maturity would go to the intended level of the relationship between the Father and the Son.

I want to thank You, Lord, that Your unity with the Son is our revelation. That our inclusion in Your relationship empowers us into a place of maturity so profound that it will radically affect the world's relationship with Heaven. The world needs to see the unity of the Beloved with Heaven. That is what Jesus demonstrated in the gospels – the interaction between the Kingdom and the world. And the world couldn't handle the power and the majesty and the sovereignty of God in Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him. And the earth will be filled with God's glory when the world sees the relationship – the love between the Father and the Son in you. The world needs to see your certainty, your confidence, that you are relaxed, happy, joyful and the world will envy you and that is the best witness of all.

The earth will be filled with God's glory when the world sees the relationship – the love between the Father and the Son in you.

When we live in first love, certainty is the best thing we have. We leave behind anxiety and worry and fear because all those things don't belong to a man or woman living in first love. There is no fear in love. Perfect love casts out fear. So when you are living in first love, you get to cast out fear in everyone you meet. And you can do it just with a hand shake. You can do it with a few words. Why? Because there is something so powerful about first love, it overcomes! Love overcomes all things. All things – even your enemies.

No one is safe from being loved. No one is safe from being blessed. No one is safe from a radiant idea of God. No one on the earth is safe from favor. Everyone can be blessed. When you live in love, that is the place you live in. You live in the place of goodness. You live in the place of kindness. You leave all the other pettiness of the world behind because you don't need it. You will never incite a love so great, so powerful that it changes the dynamic of who you are as a person. Then wherever you go, you own whatever place you are in – whether it is in a plane in an unnatural height in the sky – it is irrelevant – it is your community because YOU are there.

The place where you work belongs to you because all things belong to God, right? When you are living in first love, you are touching glory all the time. The glory between the Father and the Son wraps itself around you and you have to think in ways that are glorious. You have to see in ways that are glorious and full of possibility. You become a new creation as you exist in that space and you are learning to abide in that space.

So things like worry, fear, anxiety – they become foreign to you. I can't remember the last time I worried about anything. I'm pretty sure it was around 17 years ago – but I could be wrong, it could be 20. There is no

place for it. There is no – place – for – it in the Kingdom. It doesn't belong. It can't exist in the space between the Father and the Son. That is the space that you occupy. You are living in the embrace of the Father and the Son.

And the earth will be filled with God's glory and the world will see the love between the Father and the Son in you. You will see the love that God has for His people.

We are not a people who trade in doubt or fear or unbelief. We are a people who love to believe, who love to trust the Lord. We are a people of certainty, security, and therefore, we offer safety for people. In all the relationships around you, you become the secure place. You become the refuge because Christ in you reaches out to people and makes them feel safe.

All things are possible – that is the gift that you carry into the earth – the gift of all the possibilities of God. Anything can happen. The world needs your certainty. **The world needs to see you living in the space between the Father and the Son.** The world needs to see the Beloved of God on the streets, in the stores, places of work – everywhere. They need to see evidence of the Kingdom and that is you living in the affections of God.

You can't separate presence and glory. You are caught up in the glory of God because you are in Christ and Christ is in you. We are learning how to think gloriously and how to see gloriously. **We are a people that the enemy doesn't know how to stop because we see everything the way that Heaven sees it** – not the way the world has taught us to see it. We think differently. We see differently. We have a whole different language. We are the people that the enemy doesn't know how to stop.

Jesus is the first love. First love is the love that existed between Him and the Father before the foundation of the world and now, you get to be included in first love.

We are a people that the enemy doesn't know how to stop because we see everything the way that Heaven sees it.

In this place of first love, you have to understand that you are a treasure. You are precious. You are priceless. You have to allow your mind and your heart to be overwhelmed. You have to want to live in that place of utmost affection. When you get in that place, you do everything out of desire because you love being the Beloved.

We are caught up in a love so profound; it will affect every area of your life. It is a love that allows no negative to exist. It is a love that opens up all the possibilities of Heaven. It is a love that leads you into places of fullness and glory, abundance and favor because it is extravagant.

Here is the thing – we have accepted love in measure. Those days are over. Here is the thing – I don't know if you have realized it or not, but when you hear a message like this, you cannot go back and you have no excuse for not going forward because you can't say that you didn't know or you didn't hear. You can't get out of this now; you have to jump into it.

You have to accept love in abundance. You have to accept the love of God in all of its glory because you cannot detach His love from His glory. Everything He is, everything He does is glorious. So you are called to live a life of glory – that is glorious. That is a glorious reflection of who God is. All the people who meet you get touched by that glory. They get touched by your certainty – yeah, I will pray about that, and this is what God will do because you know that you know and you are living in that place of affection.

Nothing can work against the confidence of God. He does not mind that the odds are against Him because He is so going to win! He can make the odds bigger. He can wait until Sarah is so old that there is no possibility of her conceiving. He can wait until Abraham is so old, he can't even think about it! Only God can do that – it is like He said to Jesus, "Let's wait until they are both so decrepit that they cannot possibly fulfill the act of love let alone conceive - that will be fun. Let's do that. Let's give them a promise to hold on to and then Let's wait not until just the last possible moment, Let's wait until it is utterly and completely impossible. That will be fun."

"Let's take away 99% of Gideon's army and teach him what victory is really all about."

"Let's get these guys to walk around the most fortified city in the world for 6 days and then we will just tell them to shout and We will knock the walls down for them."

Who dreams this up in Heaven? Is there like some big eternal joke book somewhere? Is there a big book in Heaven called *The Book of Jokes and Miracles*?

"Let's wait until everything is impossible and We will step in. But, Let's have a bunch of people who are so in love with Us that they don't care! Let's have a bunch of people in the earth who specialize in the impossible because they know We are faithful. Let's teach people how incredibly faithful We are so they will never have a problem hanging out with Us and they will always trust Us and they will have this childlike sense of awe and wonder because they know We will come through. They know We are faithful. Let's teach them to be absolutely confident so that it doesn't matter what the devil does, he can't win. Let's find a bunch of people like that. Let's teach them to live like that. That will be great. That will be fun. It will be funny. And We will teach them how to be joyful in the whole thing so they really like it, like We do."

"We will teach them how to rejoice everyday so then they always rejoice in everything and they will give thanks in everything because they are so into first love they can't think negatively. They can't think in a way that gets them overwhelmed because they are too busy being overwhelmed by Us." And Jesus said, "That is a great idea. Give Me a high five!"

Here is the thing about grace. If grace is unmerited favor – if that is all it is – unmerited favor – then Jesus never had any. If grace is ONLY unmerited favor, Jesus never had any, because He deserved everything. The Bible says that He grew in grace, so grace has to be something MORE than unmerited favor.

Grace is the empowering presence of God to enable us to become like Him.

Grace is the empowering presence of God to enable us to become like Him. So God brings grace into our lives not so that we can deal with ourselves, but so that we can have the confidence to see ourselves in His fullness.

God brings grace into our lives, not so we can deal with our stuff, but so that we can have the confidence to see ourselves in His fullness. So we can receive things that are unlearned, unearned, and undeserving.

We are placed in Christ so that we can receive the love that the Father has for the Son and become mature people in the Beloved. You are the Beloved of God.

A DOOR HAS OPENED

Here is the point we are getting to. In the last half hour or 40 minutes a huge door has just opened. **In the last half hour or 40 minutes, a huge door has opened in your life – one that will change the way that we as Aglow will interact with the earth.** Everywhere through this company of people – this Kingdom Company of people – from the International Board, National Boards, the regional places, right down to the Lighthouses and every single individual – a door has opened for us.

Beloved, I charge you, in the name of Jesus, cross the threshold. Enter that space. Pursue. Explore. Discover who you really are in the affections of God. Together we can kill a religious dragon and awaken a sleeping giant in this world.

The Holy Spirit is going to disciple you in first love. He is going to teach you how to abide, how to stay, how to dwell. He is going to teach you not to worry or be anxious or fearful. He is going to teach you confidence and certainty and trust and faith. He is going to show you how to get things out of Jesus.

Any good wife knows how to get some things out of a good man. My daughter says that there are only 3 things you need to know in any language – Hello, my name is Sofie, I'll have that dress, and my father is paying.

Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you in the same way. Abide in My love. I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfect in Our unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me and You loved them even as You loved Me.

First love. You are already accepted in the Beloved. It is a gift of the Father through the Son empowered by the Holy Spirit. You are there right now. Whether you can feel it or not right now is not the issue. The issue is that you KNOW in your heart that that is the word of the Lord and your feelings will follow your faith. Sometimes you faith follows your feeling – that is cool too – it is a paradox. It is both/and.

Your feelings will follow your faith. When your feelings are negative, you never trust them. You trust what you believe. When your feelings are positive, you trust them. Either way, you win. It is a win-win.

This place is yours now in Christ. It is not dependent on anything you are doing. It is dependent on how the Father sees you. It is time for you to have impartations of first love. It is time for you to return and to be restored to first love.

Ephesians 3:14-21 For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge —that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

We are placed in Christ so that we can receive the love that the Father has for the Son and become mature people in the Beloved.

Aglow is a bondage breaker. It is a radical, radiant company of bondage breakers. We break the power of the enemy wherever we find it. We break it in ourselves, joyfully, and we break it in other people whether they want it broken or not because the life of Christ is irresistible.

It is part of our role in the earth that we break that religious spirit and we kill it stone dead. That we kill off performance as a mindset and a lifestyle. That we deal with unworthiness, low self-esteem, false humility. That we understand that God is raising up a company of intimate sons and daughters of God who are the Beloved. It is us.

It is part of our role in the earth that we break that religious spirit and we kill it stone dead.

Aglow is the pioneer of women coming into ministry and anointing and of releasing women from servitude and having no place and no voice and no say and giving woman a role in the earth in the Kingdom – raised up warriors. And now here we are, we are pioneering again with the whole role of men and women together. Pioneering to the earth, pioneering to the church what is possible when men and women unite with one heart, one mind, one voice, one Spirit – what is possible.

I believe that it is part of our role that we live as a company of people in the passion of the Father and the Son in the power of the Spirit. That we learn to bind in a much stronger way. That we learn to loose in a more extravagant fashion. That we become like God made in the image of the Lord Jesus Christ extravagant in abundance and fullness – people who don't take no for an answer. People who are indomitable – who are confident, sure, certain about everything connected to the Kingdom because we live in first love.

And that is what first love gives you. It robs you of the power to be negative. It takes away your ability to worry, be anxious, or fearful. It delivers you to a place of confidence and certainty and a joyfulness where you love the challenge. You don't care what the challenge is because the odds can never overwhelm you because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

And we are practicing majesty. That is our right as people of God. It is to love sovereignty and to practice majesty because we are caught up in the embrace of the Father and the Son. First love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, with the authority that He has given me as a prophet in His Kingdom, I command a transfer of intimate affection from performance to placement in the name of Jesus. And I declare to you that you are placed in Christ and you are the Beloved and that you will shine with brilliance and radiance and a glory. I proclaim to you that a door has opened in Heaven over your own life personally, over your family, over your neighborhood, over all that affects you. And I declare to you that if you would stand in the embrace between the Father and the Son that there is no power on the earth or under the earth that can work against you. That you will learn to rise up – you will rise up beyond your current strength and power – that you will rise to a new place of majesty and sovereignty and you will know what it is to be an overcomer yourself.

And I declare to you this day, if you will it, this day if you will it, you can kiss goodbye to doubt and fear and unbelief and anxiety and worry and panic attacks. That you can kiss goodbye once and for all to negativity. That you would learn to abide in the secret place between the Father and the Son, embraced every day of your life, kissed everyday of your life, basking in the warmth of the affection of the first love between the Father and the Son.

And in that place of abiding, you will see the unity that you have with Heaven and nothing shall speak against you or work against you because God will take you out of a place of need and He will put you into your place of inheritance. The whole earth is groaning, waiting for you to rise up, to stand up – to occupy that place gladly, joyfully, exploring, pursuing, enjoying the journey, knowing that today your story has changed forever. That you return to your home, not as you left. That you are a man and a woman of a different spirit because first love has come into your heart and life.

And I proclaim that YOU ARE the Beloved and that you will succeed as the Beloved. It is your time to rise up. It is your time to rise up. Right where you are. Put everything down and just stand in the presence of the Lord. Let your heart go out to Him. Now would be a good time to get a head start on some rejoicing, some thanksgiving. You are not an ordinary people, you are an extraordinary company.

Here is the thing, God has lovingly challenged you to return to your first love and you will discover a life in the Spirit that you cannot even dream of – it is beyond thinking – but it will change you forever.

Aglow, we are going through a big time of change. This is the word of the Lord. This transition will be the most joyful transition that has ever occurred because we will welcome the change, because we know what the rewards are. God has set aside a place for us in the Kingdom as a company of people and His intentions towards us are utterly fascinating.

I believe with all my heart that He is smiling on us. That He is lifting up the light of His countenance on us and He is saying, “Come to Me. Be restored to first love, and you will discover things you never thought possible.”

JANE’S RESPONSE:

So I just stand on behalf of Aglow, as the leader of Aglow. I join my *yeah and amen* and I say *yes*. We have stepped in. We have transitioned to a new place. There is no going back. We will be known as a people – a first love people who adore His majesty and who knows what it means to live not with just the awareness that God put us in Christ and took us to death, but the even greater truth is the God put Christ in us – to live out His life in us. We say, “Yes”. We take a giant step into our future and we understand that even that step – You have taken, You have already provided for – You have taken it within us and that is why everything within our spirits is so responding to the truth of God because the truth of God lives within us. We say, “Yes”. We say, “Yes!” We say, “YES!” We will not be a people known for the functionality of ministry. We will be known as a people who lives in relationship with Jesus. We will forever carry that picture in our minds, in our hearts, in our spirits of the Father loving Jesus with us in between and the Holy Spirit holding us in that place. What a profound truth. What a profound way to live. We say goodbye to worry and concern and anxiety and panic attacks and we step into a new place. He who did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up for all of us, how shall He not with Him also freely give to us all things? That is profound. Everything is yours. Everything lives within you – all the possibilities of Heaven – all the possibilities of God – all the possibilities of Jesus.

We have transitioned to a new place.
There is no going back.

IT IS IN US! LIVE LIKE IT!