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PREFACE

What is God looking for?

God has everything! Yet, He is searching for something. What could God, who has everything, possibly want? One of the most important questions you and I can ask is, "What is God looking for?" When we discover what He wants, we then realize what we are looking for and understand life (John 4:23).

Jesus tells us what God is looking for – LOVE. He is looking for reciprocal love. He is looking for love responses from our heart. He is after our heart (not our talent or money, etc.). He desires voluntary wholehearted love from us. This love is fueled by the spirit of abandonment to God. He wants us to give our lives to Him. God created us for a specific purpose and designed us with longings to fulfill that purpose. (2 Chron. 16:9)

What does God desire? He desires that we love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength because He loves us that way. We can know the "why" behind the "what". His glory is always the first reason for His actions in creation and redemption. However, YOU are also a significant reason. You are part of the "why" behind the "what". He pours His love on us and receives it back from us. He does it all for love.

Our highest calling is to move God's heart with our love. Our highest purpose is to love God. This comes ahead of seeking to make an impact or to be successful from man's point of view. Many want to build a big ministry for God. But first, He wants our love. It is the currency of heaven. My spiritual identity is that, "I'm loved by God and I am a lover of God and therefore I am successful". This is who we are to God, for we are not defined by our accomplishments.

The Church of Ephesus was a great revival center in their time (Acts 19-20). Yet, they did not sustain the freshness in their love for Jesus. They became workers for God more than lovers of God. Lovers will always outwork the workers. When we work without intimacy, we work as a slave. A heart of a bride is refreshed as she labors. Service without the foundation of devotion leads to burn out, disappointment, and wounding. Thus the service is not sustained over decades (Rev. 2:1-5).

The First and the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37 – 38)

The Holy Spirit is restoring the First Commandment to its first place in the Church worldwide. It is the First Commandment because loving God is the first priority to God. Jesus did not call it the first option for it is a commandment. Jesus makes it clear that cultivating wholehearted love for God is the highest and greatest lifestyle. Loving God is a glorious end in itself. However, it never ends with loving God but always overflows with loving ourselves and others (believers and unbelievers).

It is the Great Commandment because loving God would cause the greatest impact on our heart. It is the only way to enter into our greatest destiny because it has the greatest reward. Loving God always has a great impact on God's heart, our heart and the heart of others. It is a dynamic means to an end.

We need revelation of the supremacy of the First Commandment. It is the standard of evaluation at the Judgment Seat of Christ. In our desire to keep up with popular ministry trends, some regularly change directions in their ministry. We must not get our ministry focus from the latest trend, but from God's Word.

Our primary goal is to grow in love for God. God measures life differently from man because He has all the money, wisdom, fame, influence and time. Our greatest reward is to know and feel His love, to love Him and then to overflow with love for others.

God loves us in the same way that God loves God

The foundational truth that equips us to love God is to know and feel His affection for us. God loves us in the way that God loves God (John 15:9; 17:23). The Father feels the same intensity of love for us as He feels for Jesus. The Father delights in Jesus throughout all eternity. Do you know the way you move God's heart? We are His greatest prize and the apple of His eye! (Ps. 17:7 – 8) When we know the King loves us, we are unmoved even when others overlook or mistreat us.

The measure of the Father's love and affection for His Son Jesus is the measure of His love for all His sons and daughters. This is the ultimate revelation of our worth. This truth gives us the right to stand before God with confidence as one of "His favorites". Our confession is, "Jesus, You love me like the Father loves You". This makes our life great and meaningful.

Defining Wholehearted love for Jesus (Mark 12:30)

"Loving God with all our heart" means to love God with all our affection and emotions. We "set" our affections on anything we choose. We set our heart and God changes our emotions. Our emotions will follow whatever we set ourselves to pursue. We can set our heart to be filled with zeal for God. Lord, take the reins of my heart to direct it into the ocean of Your love. Ask yourself, "Why not me?"

"Loving God with all our soul" means to love God with all our personality and being. Our personality and being are expressed most dynamically by our speech. Therefore, we must determine to express our personality by speaking and acting in a way that enhances and not diminishes love.

"Loving God with all our mind" means to fill our minds with long and loving meditation on God's Word and resist putting anything in our minds that would diminish love for Jesus and quench the Holy Spirit.

"Loving God with all our strength" refers to the giving of our resources (time, money, talents, reputation, and influence) unto the LORD.

"Hear...: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." Deut. 6:4-5

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