

Awestruck: Reigniting the Awe of our Salvation

February Week 2 Devotional: “How the Demonstration of God’s Love Brings Assurance”

Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:9-10

Imagine you’re driving late at night and your car suddenly breaks down. You pull over, turn on your hazards, and reach for your phone. You’re not scrolling through your contacts looking for anyone—you’re looking for **that person**. The one you’re confident will answer. The one who has shown up before.

That confidence isn’t based on your situation. It’s based on the relationship. Their past faithfulness gives you assurance in the present.

In the same way, our confidence in God’s love isn’t rooted in how steady life feels or how strong our faith feels today. It’s rooted in who God has shown Himself to be. Scripture reminds us that God didn’t merely say He loves us—He demonstrated it at the cross. When doubts rise and circumstances shake us, we don’t look inward or around us. We look back to what God has already done.

As we continue reflecting on God’s divine love, Scripture points us to the cross as the ultimate assurance of His love for us. From 1 John 4, we are reminded of four truths that build confidence in the believer’s heart.

I. God’s Love Moves Toward Sinners

John writes, “In this the love of God was manifested toward us...” (1 John 4:9). God’s love was displayed, not hidden. He took the initiative by sending His one and only Son so that we might live through Him.

God did not wait for humanity to clean itself up, apologize, or reach out first. While we were helpless and broken, God moved toward us. The cross is proof that God steps into our worst moments, not because we deserve it, but because He loves us.

Just as a parent rushes into the emergency room for an unconscious child—without conditions or guarantees—God moved toward us when we were unable to respond. Our confidence in His love rests in this truth: He loved us first.

II. God’s Love Cannot Be Earned

John continues, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10).

God's love is not a reward for good behavior. It is not something we earn through obedience, morality, or effort. Jesus became the propitiation for our sins—He took the judgment we deserved so we could receive mercy we did not earn.

Grace only works when it is undeserved. If God loved us first, then His love cannot be earned later. This truth frees us from striving and gives us assurance: our standing with God is secure, not because of what we've done, but because of what Christ has done.

III. God's Love Cannot be Lost

Jesus tells us in John 10 that no one can snatch His sheep from His hand. Paul echoes this truth in Romans 8, declaring that nothing—neither suffering, failure, fear, nor even death—can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

God's love is not fragile. It does not abandon us when life gets hard or when we stumble. The same God who paid the ultimate price for our salvation will not walk away from His children.

If God did not spare His own Son, then there is no circumstance strong enough to undo His love for us. His love is faithful to the very end.

IV. God's Love Gives us the Confidence to Live for Him

John concludes by reminding us that perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:17–18). God's love has been “perfected” in us—not meaning flawless love, but love that has accomplished its purpose.

Because of Christ, the final judgment has already been settled. The inspection has already happened at the cross. Jesus met every requirement we could not, and because we are in Him, we now live with confidence instead of fear.

God's love doesn't just save us—it stabilizes us. It gives us boldness, freedom, and confidence to live for Him today, not as fearful servants, but as secure children.

Reflection:

When doubts about God's love creep in, don't measure His love by your circumstances or feelings. Look to the cross. His love has already been demonstrated, secured, and proven.