

## **Awestruck: Reigniting the Awe of our Salvation**

### **February Week 3 Devotional: “The Transforming Power of God’s Love”**

In 1978, Chuck Colson, once a powerful political figure involved in Watergate, was sentenced to prison. Known for ambition and ruthlessness, he saw people as tools for success. But before entering prison, a friend shared the gospel with him and read from C.S. Lewis’s *Mere Christianity*. Alone in his car one night, Colson surrendered his life to Christ.

Prison guards expected manipulation. Instead, they found humility. After his release, he founded Prison Fellowship and devoted his life to serving prisoners. He later said, “When I came to know Jesus personally, everything changed.”

That is the power of God’s love. It does not just forgive—it transforms. It does not just change our destination—it changes our desires. It does not just clean up our past—it reshapes our future.

In First Epistle of John 4:17–19, John says love is “perfected” (matured) in us—meaning it reaches its intended goal. [Here are six ways God’s love transforms the believer.](#)

#### **I. God’s Love Gives us the Ability to Live without Fear**

Love is perfected in us “so that we may have boldness in the day of judgment.” Perfected means mature—like a seed growing into a fruit-bearing tree. When we abide in Christ: We stay connected to the power source. We do not manufacture strength. We receive and release His life.

Like a lamp plugged into power, light flows naturally. Because we are God’s children, punishment is no longer ours. When love matures, confidence replaces fear.

#### **II. God’s Love Gives us the Ability to Resist the Attacks of Satan**

In Book of Psalms 59, David is surrounded by enemies, yet declares: “God is my defense. My God of mercy shall come to meet me.” God’s steadfast love goes before us.

Before the battle begins—He is there. Before tomorrow comes—He is standing in it. We do not hope God shows up We trust that He is already present. His love paves the path before us.

#### **III. God’s Love Gives us the Ability to Trust Him**

Psalm 13 begins in despair: “How long, O Lord?” Nothing changes outwardly—but David says: “But I have trusted in Your mercy.”

He does not trust emotions or timelines. He trusts God's covenant love. Like a secured inheritance, the cross guarantees our future. Because God's love is settled, we can rejoice before deliverance arrives.

#### **IV. God's Love Gives us the Ability to be Content**

In Psalm 90, Moses prays: "Satisfy us early with Your mercy." Contentment does not come from circumstances. It comes from God's presence.

Hebrews 13:5 reminds us: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." God's love is enough. His presence satisfies the deepest human need.

#### **V. God's Love Gives us the Ability to Obey Him**

Psalm 26:3 says: "Thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth." God's love saves us—and sanctifies us.

Psalm 147 teaches: God is not impressed with strength or power. He delights in those who fear Him and hope in His mercy. Fear = reverent submission. Hope = confident dependence. Obedience flows from humble reliance on His steadfast love.

#### **VI. God's Love Gives us the Ability to Love Others**

In Gospel of John 13:34, Jesus commands: "Love one another; as I have loved you." Through the Holy Spirit, we are both enabled and commanded to love others. The world does not need louder arguments. It needs believers transformed by divine love.

#### **Conclusion: Love That Recreates the Heart**

Few lives display transformation like John Newton. Once a violent slave ship captain, Newton cried out for mercy during a storm at sea. God's love slowly reshaped him: The slave trader became a pastor. The blasphemer became a believer. The hardened heart became tender.

He wrote: "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me..." Near death he said: "I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior." God's love is not sentimental—it recreates the heart.

God's love turns: Guilt into worship. Shame into song. Fear into confidence. The same love that transformed John Newton transforms us. When God's steadfast love takes hold of a heart, it never leaves that heart the same.