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Voice of Triumph

*"He brought me to the banqueting place, and his banner over me is love
[waving overhead to protect and comfort me.]"*

Song of Solomon 2:4, The Amplified Bible

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ACTIVATION OF THE LOVE ASSIGNMENT

In Greek, God's love to us *agapē* is love or charity; affection or benevolence; our love to others is *agapaō* having its root in *agapē*; to love (in a social or moral sense). In Mark 12:28-31, Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest of all. 'Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these.'" Mark 12:28-31, (MSG). Those two commandments are crystallized by three assignments found in Exodus 20:1-17 (NIV) The Ten Commandments. Commandments #1-#3 instruct us how to love God. "And God spoke all these words: ²"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³"You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments. ⁷"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Commandment #4 instructs us how to be loved by God. Sabbath is pre-scheduled downtime. God loves us back to life by healing our insecurities so we can rest in His love; i.e., curative—always stay open to remain whole. ⁸"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Commandments #5-#10 instruct us how God's love streams through us to others. We will always seek their highest good by choice, even if our feelings don't want to agree. ¹²"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³"You shall not murder. ¹⁴"You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵"You shall not steal. ¹⁶"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. ¹⁷"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

INCORPORATE GOD'S FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES IN YOUR WORSHIP

What makes love authentic is when we communicate to God His heart's desires. Spinning off Gary Chapman's *Five Love Languages*, Psalm 100 illustrates how to express our worship tangibly. "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD all the earth. [1-Acts of Service] ² Serve the LORD with gladness; [2-Closeness] come before His presence with singing. [3-Touch] ³ Know ye that the LORD He is God; it is He that has made us and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. [4- Words of Affirmation] ⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; [5-Gift Giving] be thankful unto Him and bless His name." Still give God what you desire, but always include His desires also.

FEAR CAN'T COEXIST: RESIDE PERFECTLY FEARLESS UNDER GOD'S LOVE

When we don't believe God loves us, fear's torment makes us feel dwarfed; we think punishment instead of mercy triumphing over the judgement against us. God's love fully completes us: we stand bold as a lion with His authority in us and harmless as a dove with His love in us. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love," I John 4:18. Muse on God loving you.

Thought for Transformation

God's love covers our offense. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life," John 3:16, KJV. "But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us," Rom. 5:8, (AMPC). "God didn't spare His own Son but handed Him over to death for all of us. So He will also give us everything along with Him," Rom. 8:32, (GW). God's love covers our defense. "Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one. None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us." Romans 8:35-39, (MSG). Accept God's invitation to live under His covering.

YOUR GIFT: HEALING YOUR INSECURITIES, DR. ROY HICKS AT BLOG.KINGSPORTIONLIVE.COM