

# The Gift of God that's within You

Part 4: Touched by His Love

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NOVEMBER 5TH, 2017

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## Full Text (for reading on your own)

### *After 25 years ... No more back pain!*

Mandy suffered a back injury when she was 13 or 14 years old. As a result she has lived in severe pain, with multiple surgeries, injections, and therapies since then. For 25 years since her injury, she has never had a day without pain.

Several weeks ago, while waiting in a line for prayer, instead of waiting for someone to pray for her, she started talking to God herself about it. While talking with Him, she felt from the top of her spine to the bottom - it cracked all the way down - and then she felt cold. Her whole back went cold.

When Mandy walked out of church that day, she had no more pain!

She had thought her healing would have to come from the pastor or someone else praying for her, but she learned that day that God hears her too!

With her back being healed she was able to go home sweep the floor, clean bathtubs - things she could not do before. She danced with her kids. Instead of having to take the bottom row in the bleachers at the football game she was able to climb to the top so she could see better. She was able to go bowling with her children - things she has not ever been able to do!

She wants everyone to know that God is happy to do that for someone else too. She prays that if you are suffering in any way that you open your heart and God will hear you. We are all worthy to receive from God because He loves us all.

Since that time she caught a kid that was falling out of the bleachers and it sprained her healed back. So at church service on Sunday we prayed for her back at which point she felt an intense heat go down through her legs and now her back does not hurt again! Often the enemy will try to steal a healing, but that is not to happen! Praise God!

## *By the Holy Spirit*

We don't minister out of our own strength, we minister out of the power of the Holy Spirit. 2 Timothy 1:6-7 *"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*

You have received impartation and now it is your job to stir it up. You have received impartation and now it is your job to fan into flame the gift of God that's within you through the laying on of hands.

Peter and John modeled in Acts 3 what do with an impartation. He said "what I have I give to you." We carry truths, but we don't just carry truths. We actually carry the kingdom of God on the inside of us. As Jesus said in Luke 17:21 *"For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."* Therefore when we reach out to people, God comes out.

The key to stewarding the impartation - the key to fanning it into flame - is using it! If we are faithful with little, we will be given more. When you have an impartation and you start praying for people like you have an impartation, you will receive more of it! When you use it, it fans it into flame. You have the spark, but you don't quench the Spirit - you fan it into flame through use!

If you have monies and want to operate in God's economy financially, you sow your financial seed, correct? He gives bread for food and seed to the sower. Wouldn't that be the case with an impartation too? It's power for your life and it's also meant to be sown into other people's lives so that they get blessed and you get more of it. He will multiply your seed for sowing!

## *Always in Uniform*

I recently heard a woman breathing very heavily at the post office. She had a mask on. I felt compassion for her and asked her what was going on with her breathing. She said she had COPD and was needing oxygen. I offered to pray - she heartily accepted.

We are walking around with a uniform on the kingdom that says "I am here and I am fit for service for the King." So we say "Lord who do you want to partner with me to see set free? I just want to be part of Your ministry." We are never out of uniform as a commissioned believer. Think of "off-duty" police officers - they are quickly on-duty when duty calls!

I prayed for this lady. She didn't feel anything in particular. I thought to pray again. I tried a different tact. "Father, we just receive right now." All of a sudden, for 30-40 seconds, the power of God was flowing out of my arms, through my hands, straight into her ... it was like a hose! I just said "more Lord!" When I stopped I asked "did you feel that???" She exclaimed "yes!" I said "that was the power of God!" She said "I know!" I told her "I believe you just got healed ... do something you couldn't do ... can you take a deep breath?" She did and there was no wheezing!

I don't have follow up info, but I do know the power of God was released that day and something changed right there as she had no wheezing in that moment!

You are always in uniform. Even if you feel like you are off-duty, you are in-duty because it doesn't even cost you anything! It's not about you - it's about Jesus - and He lives in you and if you want to steward the impartation and fan into flame the gift of God that's within you, you have to use it, use it, use it, use it! Use it! Don't quench the Holy Spirit when He nudges you into action.

### *Moving from Witnesses to Revivalists*

Che Ahn recently said there are believers that are not yet witnesses, there are believers that are witnesses, and then there are revivalists.

Not-yet-witnesses are not talking about the Lord. Witnesses have a good life and they will tell people about the Lord. Revivalists are everything that a witness is PLUS FIRE.

Revivalists are on fire. They are burning for Jesus. Fire matters. May we catch on fire with God's love in a way we have never caught on fire before!

Song of Solomon 8:6-7a says *"Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it."* Love is a fire! When you catch fire with the love of God for you, your life will change!

### *Touched by His Love*

We are going to start to burn in our hearts with His love! We need to have an encounter with His love! Recently Georgian Banov showed how our tendency in our walk with God is to THINK THINK instead of DRINK DRINK. The Christian life is not THINK ... it's DRINK! Taste and see that He is good! It's beautiful that you have a brain - use it! But don't let it keep you from having an encounter!

Here's MY story: For years if pastors talked on love I struggled to connect with it. I felt it was cliché. I eagerly waited for them to move on to something else! I would think "yeah, yeah, I know that." That's the THINK THINK mindset.

About 2 months ago I was Cleveland, and knew that I knew that I needed a fresh touch from God. I texted my wife to pray for me to have a fresh touch from God. It was so heavy on my heart that I felt I might die if I didn't get touched by God. So I was reading in Starbucks and the presence of the Lord is on me heavily. I am crying silently. An 18 month old runs over with a smile to stand next to me (I believe because he or she could feel the presence of the Lord in the corner of the store with me). Even when the mom retrieved her child, the child looked back at me with a huge smile.

The Lord told me a bit later to leave Starbucks and drive to the Lake (about 5 miles away). I got in my Volvo and told the Lord “don’t hold anything back that you want to give me right now and God don’t let me thwart anything that you want to give me right now.”

What happened next was the most dramatic encounter with God that I have ever had. He literally took shame off of me on the drive to the Lake!

I got to the park by the Lake and it was pouring down rain. He told me “I told you to go to the Lake.” I said “I’m here.” He said “I told you to go to the Lake.” I realized He was telling me to get out of my car. I was like “are you kidding me, it’s pouring down rain!” Silence ... He’s not kidding me!

So I get out of the car - sidestepping 6 inch deep puddles from this torrential downpour. As I get out of the car it is lightning too. So I said “Lord, is this a demonic spirit trying to send me out in the lightning to kill me or is this you?” I heard the Lord clearly say “it’s Me.” So I keep going.

So I walk out toward the beach. I don’t want to walk out on the beach and be a human lightning rod so I stay back in the trees at the back of the beach - and the Lord speaks to my heart something so profound ... He had removed shame from me and now in the trees at the back of the beach the Lord said “I love you” and somehow it sank deeper than it ever had before.

I knew this was God but I know Him pretty well so I said “God, am I missing something? This is an odd date for You to have me stand out here in the lightning and the rain to tell me that You love me ...” So He says “walk out on the beach and I will clear the sky.”

So I started to walk out on the beach and there was a big crack of lightning and I ran back into the woods!

Three minutes later it looked like the lightning was mostly east so I walked out on the beach and here’s what I find ... 10,000 seagulls and shafts of light piercing the dark gray sky!



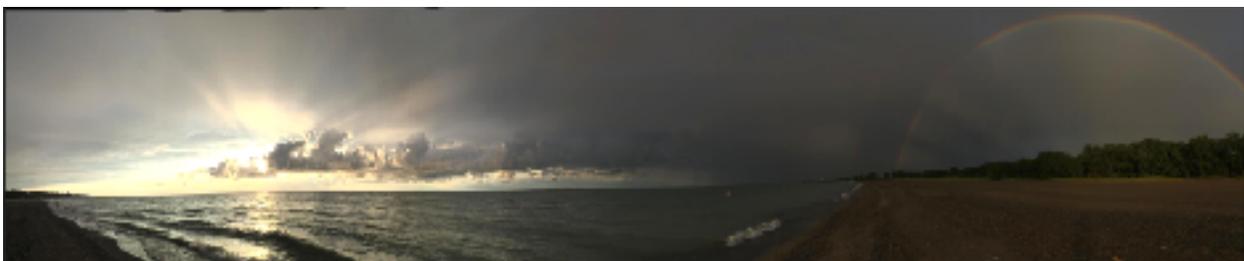
I turned around and I saw a double rainbow starting to form behind me:



I then looked out of the Lake and saw this incredibly gorgeous sunset!



For the next 45 minutes it didn't let up. Rainbows tend to be short lived, but this one didn't let up for probably 45 minutes. I was taking panoramic pictures of a beautiful sunset one way and the double rainbow the other way:



The Lord spoke to me and said “this is for you.” I believed Him! No one else was there. He had told me to leave Starbucks and go to the Lake. He had told me to get out of my car and to walk onto the beach!

He told me “this is representative of my love for you ... but it is less than my actual love for you ... it’s the best I can express with the sky.”

At the end I saw this scene:



and the Lord gave me understanding of what He had done ... He had removed shame and basically then overwhelmed me (baptized me) in His love!

He told me “I want you to start imparting that - giving that encounter of love - away to people.”

On the drive home from Cleveland I listened to Andrew Wommack teach on the love of God for us. He said the love of God is the hardest thing to teach because almost all believers think they know it, but almost no believers actually know it. For the first time I knew what he meant! For the first time I wasn’t disdaining about hearing about the love of God! I had known but now I KNEW!!!

As I drove home it occurred to me that I had known the grace of God and who I was in Christ, but NOW I knew the HEART BEHIND THAT GRACE!

Since then I've seen Leif Hetland has a book "Baptism of Love" ... that's what I experienced! So I am starting to see and encounter a whole area I didn't know about!

### *Are you "Vitamin L" Deficient?*

Now, know that I firmly believe in 1 Timothy 1:9 which says the Law is NOT for the righteous person! So I am not about to bring any Law or condemnation. I do also know that many of us think that we know the love of God but the details and proofs of our life may not indicate that we've had an encounter with the love of God. So I'm going to share some things here to try to help bring humility - to help you receive. Grace always comes where humility is.

Perhaps you've encountered the love of God before ... but are you still acutely aware of it? Remember the Ephesians got a glowing report from Paul in his letter to them. It was the church Timothy pastored and Paul said he had "no one else" like Timothy!

Even Jesus commended the church at Ephesus *"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 'I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.'"* (Rev. 2:1-3)

What a glowing report - and this time from Jesus Christ Himself! *"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works."* (v. 4-5) They were doing all the right things but they had left their first love. It's possible that you've had an encounter with God's love before but you've become dry in that love - just as a marriage's passion can fade without upkeep. Jesus told the church at Ephesus to change their mind and do the "first works" again. What are the first works? The works of love!

You can have it again today. God's later days are always better than the former days. You cannot mature yourself out of a need for God's love.

So my question for you is "are you vitamin L deficient?" Let's consider some litmus tests. Be humble. Be humble.

### *Are you filled with all the fullness of God?*

Ephesians 3:14-19 captures a prayer Paul prayed for the Ephesian church - perhaps one Jesus in Revelation 2 willed them to return to and consider again: *"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father*

*of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*

Our ability to comprehend God's Word is through our relationship with His love. Paul therefore prayed that we would be able to comprehend the VOLUME of God's love for you. Look what the intended result of that prayer was "*to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*"

I thought I knew the love of God, but a good litmus test to ask yourself is "am I filled with all the fullness of God?" ***If you are not filled with all the fullness of God yet, that means you are not filled with His love yet.***

What would the fullness of God look like? Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control! Those are characteristics of the working of the Spirit in our lives. If I'm not filled with all of those yet, that means there is more room for revelation of how great His love is for me.

I am not trying to be heavy handed but I am trying to humble you if necessary so you can say "let's look at my life ... what's the proof of my life - am I filled with all the fullness of God ... and if not, could it be that I need more Vitamin L - more of a revelation of His love in my life?"

### ***Do you struggle with lust/covetousness and/or pride?***

Now let's look at 1 John 2:15-16 "*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world.*"

Again, this is not about trying to create a sin-focus. I am just trying to help us have some data points to say "where am I at." The solution won't be to focus on your flesh - the solution will be the provision listed right here in this verse.

These verses are saying that if you have the love the world in you, you don't yet have the love of God in you in that area. In other words, if you have the love of the world in you, it is highlighting to you an area of your life that God is wanting to impart His love to you in.

If you find an area of your life that has the lust of the flesh, the list of the eyes, and/or the pride of life (overall the love of the world) it highlights to you an area where He has a new revelation / deeper revelation of His love for you.

There are areas of your life you have been quiet about because you don't want to talk with Him about them because you have shame. But God is removing shame from hearts so that you can actually come before God and receive His love in areas of your life that have been hard to talk with Him about. Shame hides from His love, but those who look to Him are radiant and their faces shall never be ashamed! He wants you to be able to have a greater level of intimacy with Him.

So, let's say you're struggling with lust ... that is a sign-post that God wants to impart more of His love to you! "God who do you want to be for me / how do you want to express your love for me so that I don't have this need unmet any longer?"

Let's say you're struggling with pride. Perhaps every time you do something great for someone else within 10 minutes you are contemplating how great you are ... OR every time you do something for anyone within 10 minutes you are worrying about whether you did it right - and what they think of you. That's pride too. I am not being heavy handed - it is simply a signpost signaling the need for more of the love of God!

Once we know the love of God, the pride of life - the need to be affirmed by other people - goes away. The love of God makes everything else irrelevant. If He's told you that He loves you and you've received it and encountered it in your heart, it makes everything else irrelevant.

Recently the Lord told me "let the pride of life die." I said "how God?" He said "stop feeding it." I said "how do I stop feeding it?" He said "every time you check someone else's opinion, you feed pride."

When you feel like you have a need to get other people's opinions (pride) what you actually have a need for is more of the love of God. If you have a need to get something from someone else through covetousness or lust ... if you have a need to get someone else's affirmation, which is their opinions (pride) ... what you actually have a need for is His love!

I am not trying to bring a sin focus. I am trying to help you see is that when you see a target (a need) like that, know that you have the arrow to pierce it straight through the middle!

What we often do is see a need (a target) and focus so much on the target not realizing we need to identify the target but then ALSO identify the arrow that will shoot that target straight thru! That's the Word of God which divides soul from Spirit. And what's the Word of God that will take the pride right out of your life? His love!

So often we think we need to "buckle down." And while 1 Thessalonians does say to "abstain from evil" (which is good ... sometimes you just need to cut the top of the weed off until you can get the issue settled in your heart ... but in the meantime I am not going to keep doing that thing praise God) ...BUT what if God could get to the root so that you don't even have the desire any longer?

So often we see the target in our life and fail to realize that you don't hit the target with the target ... you hit the target with the arrow! And the arrow here is God's love! And He's wanting to get into your heart with His love in areas where there is hurt to solve those things.

So are you filled with all the fullness of God - or do you have room for more of the fullness of God? Are you free from pride? Are you free from covetousness or lust? If you are - then you don't need more of the fullness of God - you don't need a greater revelation the love of God.

But if you find yourself thinking about what other people think about you, or do you find yourself not sometimes being patient in things, then you have to ask yourself "could I need more of His love?" And the answer for all of us of course is "YES!"

Love is not cliché - it is an essential vitamin!

### *The Greatest Hinderance to Receiving His Love*

We have to receive His love! Let's start by addressing the most major thing that will keep you from receiving the love of God. Let's look at Romans 8:33-35, 37-39

*Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

What we are talking about here is separation - from His love. We are saying we need more of His love, so how do we end up not receiving His love. What was separating me from His love such that I needed that encounter with His love in Cleveland? There was some separation that was going on in my heart because of shame. So He removed the shame and then His love came in!

So let's look at the strategy of the enemy to keep you from experiencing His love. God is wanting to direct you into His love today, but you need to know how to get out of the spot where His love is being blocked in your life.

In verses 35, 38, and 39 above we see all the things that will never be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Paul was persuaded that none of these things shall separate us from the love of Christ. Verse 35 even asks "WHO shall separate us from the love of Christ?" The answer is found in verses 33-34 ... look at them again.

There is something that can separate you from the love of Christ. In verses 33 and 34 we see a sequence that shows us what CAN separate you from the love of God. “Who shall bring a CHARGE / ACCUSATION ... who is he who CONDEMNNS ... who shall SEPARATE us from the love of Christ?”

Three stages: ACCUSATION —> CONDEMNATION —> SEPARATION

This is the ploy of the enemy to keep believers from receiving God’s love. Bill Johnson has been saying that it’s not that we have trouble hearing God’s voice so much that we are willing to hear other voices.

Accusation is from the accuser of the brethren. Satan tries to tell unbelievers that they don’t have a sin problem so that they will not be saved and then he tells believers that you have a sin problem so that you won’t walk in righteousness. He’s the accuser of the brethren.

Watch what happens ... accusation, when believed, becomes condemnation.

Condemnation produces separation.

Accusation —> condemnation —> separation. If you are experiencing separation in your heart from the love of Christ - any sense of distance - it is not on His end. That’s why Paul is so convinced that none of those things could separate us from the love of God. Not you past, nor your future. Not angels or principalities. Not your circumstances (height or depth).

What can separate you? Accusation —> condemnation —> separation.

So here’s then another litmus test ... “do I feel separation in my heart from God?” If the answer is “yes” on some level, where did the condemnation slip in? In other words, which accusation did I start believing?

“Oh yeah I had that bad thought 10 minutes ago ...” What do you do with that? Remember who paid for that thought! You come out of the accusation of the accuser of the brethren “that’s not who I am ... I thank you Jesus that you’ve made me clean by Your blood and I step into that grace right now” and you start being aware of His love again.

If we are not filled with all the fullness of God, or if we are struggling with identity sort of things (needing to covet what someone else has or needing to get opinions of others - pride) then we need more of God’s love. That’s why we’re starting here with the biggest hinderance to encountering God’s love.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 says God is directing your heart (right now) into His love. If you look at the scriptures, you will see He is always working to direct your heart into His love - that you may remain in His love, and that you would respond to His love.

He wants you to respond to His love but the enemy comes in to try to cut off that lifeline to His love and intimacy with Him by feigning that there is separation between you and Him. But Paul says that none of these things shall separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus - except for the thing that you can allow to separate you from that love ... which is condemnation, which comes from believing an accusation. An accusation believed produces condemnation and and condemnation always produces separation.

### *Short Circuiting Condemnation with Isaiah 54:17*

You short circuit condemnation by looking at Isaiah 54:17 *“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord.*”

I am telling you ... we need to stop being condemned by the enemy and instead start condemning his tongue. It's different mindset. “How dare you bring that railing accusation against me. Satan get behind me. That's not who I am. You are speaking out of turn with what God did.”

Notice what the weapon is! It's a tongue! Death and life are in the power of the tongue. The enemy is using the lying tongue in order to be a weapon against you. Because as soon as you receive condemnation, you receive separation, and when you have separation he can bring disease into your life. He can bring financial trouble into your life. He can bring struggle at your job into your life - that would not otherwise be there because you would be intimately connected to the vine and hearing what He's saying and doing in every area of your life ... flowing in His blessings in your life.

So how do you deal with that? You condemn every tongue that rises against you in judgement! You don't just say “that's not right” ... you condemn it!

This is the inheritance of the servants of the Lord. If you will stand up to those accusations and not receive them (which would turn into condemnation and separation) ... if you will stand up to the accusation what will happen is that as you start to condemn that tongue that has risen against you in judgement (notice that it does not say God will condemn the tongue that rises against you in judgement ... it says YOU will!)

*and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord.*” As soon as you will step up in faith and say “that's not from God” someone else comes up behind you! Your advocate starts to

speak! His name is Jesus Christ the Righteous and He speaks emphatically and powerfully on your behalf *“his / her righteousness is **from Me.**”*

Right as you do that you have back-up ... the Savior who hung on the tree and He speaks up “no no He has received righteousness from me STOP that accusation right now.” But YOU have to be the one that condemns the tongue. When YOU condemn the tongue, then Jesus Himself comes in behind and declares that you are righteous because of Him!

That’s the biggest hinderance to walking in the love of God - is walking instead in separation. God is leading your heart into His love!

We need His love! It’s happening to me again! I am encountering His love more than ever before. And I am NOT the only one! The later days are always greater than the former days. Glory to glory tells us that when God is doing a new thing, it doesn’t have to be because there was a bad thing! The new thing can take you from glory to glory; it’s from a good thing to a better thing!

What if your level of encounter with His love went way up in your time in the Word? What if your level of encounter with His love went way up in your time in prayer?

Humble your heart and say “God I need more of your love.” His grace floods into every place of humility. As soon as there is humility, grace rushes in!

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## Discussion Introduction (for reading as a group)

We are going to start to burn in our hearts with His love! Georgian Banov recently said the Christian life is not THINK ... it’s DRINK! Peter recently had an encounter in which he was overwhelmed by God’s love. After this experience, he realized he had known the grace of God and who he was in Christ, but NOW he knew the HEART BEHIND THAT GRACE!

Are you “vitamin L” deficient? Let’s consider some litmus tests. Be humble. Ephesians 3:19 shows us that if you are not filled with all the fullness of God yet, that means you are not filled with His love yet. Likewise, 1 John 2:15-16 shows us that if you find an area of your life that has the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and/or the pride of life (overall the love of the world) it highlights to you an area where He has a new revelation / deeper revelation of His love for you.

The greatest ploy of the enemy to keep believers from receiving God’s love is to function as the accuser of the brethren. Accusation, when believed, becomes condemnation. Condemnation produces separation. If you are experiencing separation in your heart from the love of Christ - any sense of distance - it is not on His end.

You can short circuit condemnation with Isaiah 54:17 *“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” says the Lord.*”

What if your level of encounter with His love went way up in your time in the Word? What if your level of encounter with His love went way up in your time in prayer? Humble your heart and say “God I need more of your love.” His grace will flood into every place of humility.

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### Points to Ponder . . .

- What stood out to you in this testimony about Mandy’s back being healed?
- What about Peter’s story of encountering God’s love stirred something in you?
- What are some simple, scriptural tests to help us know if we are “vitamin L” deficient?
- How does the enemy work to produce separation according to Romans 8?
- What strategy does Isaiah 54:17 help us see for short-circuiting separation?
- In what areas do you want to encounter more of the love of God?