

***Question: Lately I've not been feeling very loved by God, so why should I love him?***

We must be careful about placing too much confidence in our own internal, subjective feelings. When experiencing discouragement in life, anyone will feel unloved. Because I feel unloved within myself does not mean my wife, children and friends do not love me. Neither should I conclude God does not love me because of my personal internal feelings. In his amazing grace, God loves us unconditionally. The Bible says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NIV).

However, when it comes to our love for God, there seems to be a lot of fuzzy thinking. We scoff at the man who proclaims his love for a woman only to use her. Why should it be any holier for us to love God only for our own use and benefit? Are we any less the spoiled brats if we refuse to love and trust God because he does not cater to our every whim? Surely God wants at least the same love we want: to be loved for his very person rather than for what he has done or might do for us.

Our heavenly Father wants us to approach him in full assurance that he will bless us. But he also wants hearts that trust him to always know and do what is in our best interests. Jesus expressed the principle this way, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 3:33).

For example, recently I read of a man whose eight-year-old son suffered a traumatic blow to the head. The doctor explained that he was in a coma and might not live. The father found a private place and prayed. He didn't try to bargain with God, trying to make a deal. He just prayed, "Lord, I love and trust you, and I love my little boy. I put him in your hands and plead for your mercy. I ask that your will be done. Please let him live and be whole. If he is to die, let my wife and me have enough faith to praise you for the eight years you let us have with him. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Another writer put it this way: "You can love God for his own sake. Or you can love him for the sake of using him, if this is love at all. The former is the means to secure faith; the later contains the germ of its own destruction."

Dear friend, no matter what you feel right now, God still loves you!

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