

Weekly Devotions: GOD IS SOVEREIGN 5

God's Love Is In Spite Of

Many believers wrongly conclude that the God portrayed in the OT is a harsh and punishing God, a God of wrath. On the contrary, the writers, especially the Psalmists, described the Almighty God as a compassionate God, whose love and faithfulness is steadfast, without condition and immeasurable.

God's love is seen, especially, in His mercy and grace towards Israel who repeatedly turned from Him to worship pagan gods. Like a father who may be disappointed and angry with his child's wrongdoing, nevertheless, the father's love for the child does not cease. And he will do what he can to help the child turn from his / her waywardness.

Read Psalm 36

King David wrote many beautiful Psalms praising God's amazing love and man's place of favor in God's heart. In Psalm 36, David proclaimed that God's loving kindness is shown to everyone (v. 7); all humanity (NLT), people (NIV) or children of mankind (ESV) can take refuge in the shadow of His wings.

Unfortunately, the wicked who have no fear or reverence for God (v.1) will not appreciate God's love for them. They will continue to do as they like, taking God and His love for granted. They will behave as if they do not need to answer to Him for their actions and words. Only the godly, those who fear God, will walk in His ways and enjoy His abundant blessings.

God loves and is kind to all, even the wicked. In spite of their arrogance and rejection of God, they can experience God's love and faithfulness if they turn to Him. But if they continue to do evil, they will 'lie fallen, thrown down, not able to rise' (v. 12, NIV).

Questions to ponder

1. What did David say about God's love, faithfulness, righteousness and judgments?
2. Wickedness is to harbor sin in our hearts and have no fear or reverence for God. What else did David say about the wicked (vv. 1-4)? Give examples of irreverent behavior in Christians when we gather to worship and what does it mean for you to live in reverence and holy fear of God daily?
3. God's love has the power to transform even the wicked. Is there someone you know who needs to experience the unconditional love of God? How can you express God's love through your words and actions to this person?