

REAL **TRUTH.** REAL **LOVE.** REAL **HOPE.**

A quarterly newsletter from **Pastor Jeff Schreve** and *From His Heart* Ministries

W I N T E R 2 0 2 2

THREE SOURCES OF DOUBT ... AND HOW YOU CAN CONQUER THEM!

By Pastor Jeff Schreve

Everything in the Christian life hangs on one thing: the love of God. It's the theme that resounds across the whole of Scripture and right down through the course of history.

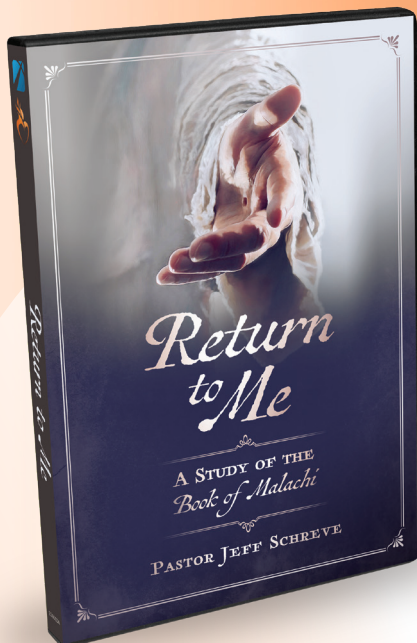
That's because love is the very essence of God's character. It's not just something He *does*. It's who He *is*.

The trouble is that, in our limited and sinful state, we humans have a tendency to doubt God's love. Like children plucking petals from a daisy, we can find ourselves thinking *He loves me* when life is good, and *He loves me not* when things get tough.

It's nothing new. The Israelites in Malachi's day had the same issue.

"I have loved you," says the Lord. But you say, "How have You loved us?" (Malachi 1:2 NASB)

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HOW TO **TRUST GOD IN TOUGH TIMES**

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THREE SOURCES OF DOUBT ... AND HOW YOU CAN CONQUER THEM! *(continued from p. 1)*

There were three reasons why the people of Israel had begun to question God's love.

First, they focused on their circumstances.

In Malachi's day, the people had returned from exile to Jerusalem. But soon enough, their hopes turned to disappointment. The rebuilt temple and city walls were second-rate. They were under threat from the superpowers of the day. And so they began to focus all their attention on their tough circumstances.

Second, they forgot their blessed history.

As the Israelites fixated on their difficult circumstances, they took their eyes off God's faithfulness. They forgot God had chosen them. They forgot He'd rescued them from slavery in Egypt. They forgot God had given them the promised land. They forgot He'd promised never to leave or forsake them.

Third, they failed to trust their glorious future.

Just as the Israelites forgot all that God had done for them in the past, they also neglected His promise of a

glorious future. After all, hundreds of years had gone by and there was no sign of the Messiah.

These three things left the Israelites questioning whether God really did love them. And they're the same three reasons that can cause you and me to doubt today.

But these obstacles can be conquered! When you find yourself questioning God's love ...

Focus on God's faithfulness. Remember God is always good and trustworthy. Be sure to view your circumstances through the lens of God's love and not the other way around!

Remember your blessed history. Look back to a hill called Calvary and see the Savior hanging on a cross. This is the ultimate demonstration of God's love for you!

And fix your gaze on the hope of heaven. Don't lose sight of God's promise that a day is coming when "there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain" (Revelation 21:4 NASB).

Friend, this is the real truth that brings real hope in all circumstances: God loves you!

Q&A *with* PASTOR JEFF

Q: I'm walking through a really tough situation and life feels so unfair. How can God be at work in times like this?

A: Have you ever been to a parade? Like the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade? Down at street level, you can't see all that much—just what's passing by at any given moment.

But imagine seeing the same parade from a helicopter. You can see the whole thing—where it starts and where it finishes.

It's the same with life. As human beings, we can only see what's going on from our limited perspective. But God sees the bigger picture!

So fix your eyes on Him, remembering He is all-powerful, and all-loving, and will cause "all things to work together for good" for you (Romans 8:28 NASB).

Q: I often don't feel that God loves me. How can I be sure He does?

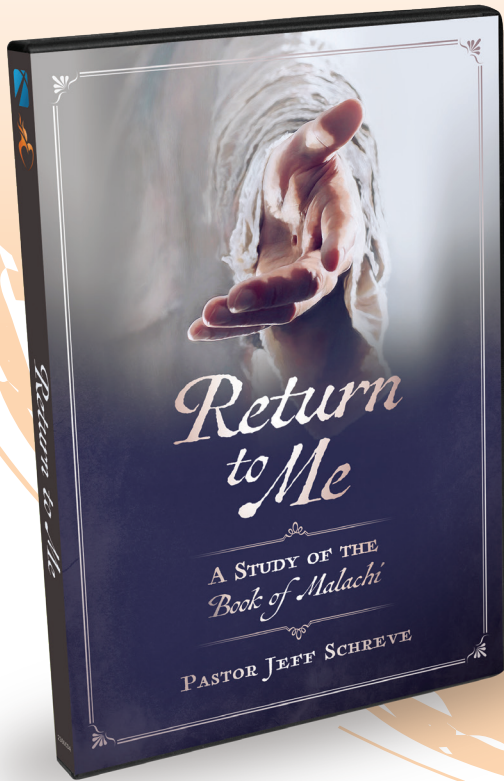
A: In the Christian life, it's so important to focus on the facts and not on your feelings. Your feelings are unreliable and will swing up and down depending on your circumstances. But the facts of God's character and promises are unchanging.

So chose to believe His unchanging word and not your fickle feelings. Meditate on who He is, what He has done, and what He tells us in the Scripture:

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
(Romans 5:8 NASB)



HOW TO TRUST GOD IN TOUGH TIMES



Dear Friend,

The Israelites in Malachi's day struggled with disappointment, fear, and doubt. The difficulties of their time had caused them to question God's goodness, fairness, and justice.

Sound familiar?

In my brand-new teaching series, *Return to Me*, I take you through the book of Malachi verse by verse to strengthen your confidence in God's faithfulness and goodness, come what may.

This 8-message *Return to Me* series is my way of thanking you for your gift this month to help more people experience real truth, real love, and real hope in Jesus.

I hope you'll request your copy today, and God bless you!

Pastor Jeff

From Debbie's Heart: **GOD MEANS IT FOR GOOD!**

I think we would all agree that the past two years have been tough ones. We have all faced circumstances that have been painful, stressful, and difficult.

We have an enemy who loves to take advantage of our hard times. He loves to cause us to doubt God's goodness, faithfulness, and love. It's in these times we have to go back to the truth: That God is good and that He loves us. Romans 8:28 is a *promise* we can cling to:

And we KNOW that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God.

God's ways are higher than ours, and as a result, we often are not going to understand why He is allowing our circumstances to be as they are. He works in ways that we will never understand.

There are many examples in the Bible of people who had tough circumstances, but God saw them through and used it for their good: Job, Esther, Ruth, Joseph and many more.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is when Joseph, who had been sold into slavery, falsely accused and imprisoned, is released, vindicated, and restored. He says to his brothers, "*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good*" (Genesis 50:20).

So, when you feel forgotten or are doubting God, always remember that He is with you in your pain. His timing is perfect, and He knows the end of the story. Spoiler alert: **WE WIN!!!**



A note to you from **PASTOR JEFF**

Dear Friend,

The famous Swiss theologian Karl Barth was once asked if he could sum up his whole life's studies in a single sentence.

"Yes, I can," he replied. *"In the words of a song I learned at my mother's knee: 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.'"* Jesus loves me! Jesus loves you!

It's a heart-shaping, life-changing, eternity-sealing truth. And it's the reason *From His Heart* Ministries exists—to help you know the real *truth*, real *love*, and real *hope* that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

It's also the reason I'm so thankful for you, because through your prayers and partnership, more people are experiencing the love of God in new and powerful ways. So thank you for your support as together we proclaim the Gospel on TV, on the radio, and online!

Love,



YOU HELPED MORE PEOPLE EXPERIENCE **GOD'S LOVE** IN 2021!

We serve a God *"who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think"* (Ephesians 3:20 NASB). Looking back over 2021, that's just what happened—as the Lord used friends like you to do more than we asked or imagined through *From His Heart* Ministries.

Yes, your partnership through 2021 made it possible to ...

- Reach more than 87,000 TV viewers per week with Pastor Jeff's truth-filled teaching.
 - Expand our radio listener base by 26%, reaching over 136,000 people on a weekly basis.
 - Share real truth right in people's inboxes—with Pastor Jeff's weekly encouragements now reaching more than 28,000 people every day.
 - Broadcast the message of real hope in Jesus through the *From His Heart* podcast, which now has almost 13,000 downloads.
 - Branch out to new online platforms, including social media and YouVersion.
- Keep an eye out for a brand-new plan coming soon in 2022!

Your support means so much as together we share God's Word far and wide so that searching and hungry people can know real hope, real truth, and real love in Jesus Christ.

Thank you!

