

LOVE

came down

“Short Circuited?”

Psalm 86:1-13 - Pastor Bruce French

When does love come?

1. Love comes when we _____ God. Ps. 86:11

- Loving people listen for _____.
Ps. 86:11a; 1 John 3:21-23
- Loving people listen for _____.
Ps. 86:11b; 1 John 2:3-6
- Loving people listen for _____.
Ps. 86:11c; 1 John 4:4-6

2. Love comes when we _____ God. Ps. 86:12

- Loving people speak from _____.
Ps. 86:12a; 1 John 4:16-18
- Loving people speak from _____.
Ps. 86:12b; 1 John 4:19-21
- Loving people speak from _____.
Ps. 86:13a; 1 John 4:7-11

Take Home Truth

Love comes when we _____ the _____.

Ps. 86:13b, 1 John 5:1-5

Today's Core Virtue:

Love: I unconditionally love others.
(from 1 John 4:10-12)



Deeper Connection Study

This psalm incorporates many quotes from other psalms in showing the personal nature of God to those who love him. It is a classic lament imploring the Lord to act on behalf of the believer while also asserting the many attributes of God worthy of praise. God alone is our benefactor, protector, and savior. Even in the midst of difficult circumstances, his people can be assured that God hears their prayers and acts according to his good and perfect will.

Today's Core Belief discussed: Personal God.

Read Psalm 86

1. What requests does the psalmist make of the Lord? How does this also highlight God's many attributes?
2. How does the psalmist demonstrate his dependence on God? How does this encourage you as you seek to rely fully on the Lord?
3. Why is it important to say that God's greatness and uniqueness are unrivaled (vv. 8-10)?
4. How does God's greatness have bearing on your life? How have you experienced his forgiveness and steadfast love (vv. 5, 13)?
5. What promises does David make to God and what prompted him to do so (vv. 11-13)? How would you concur with his desire to know God in a deeper way?
6. What holds you back from walking in God's truth? When is it difficult for you?

Prayer to the point: Praise God for his personal care and protection! Pray for those who do not know Christ and ask God to draw them close to himself. Ask God to use you to share with others about your relationship with Christ.

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

Today marks the fourth week of Advent and the theme of love. The love of God is a common subject among Christians. It constitutes countless sermons, it saturates daily devotional books, and it is the focus of endless praise songs. Yet in spite of the volume of space that is given to the subject of God's love, few Christians truly comprehend it. For example, when a child dies, or there is a terrorist attack, many believers ponder, "How is this love, and why would a loving God allow it?" Others who are convinced that God is love, defend His sovereignty by making up possible reasons for the incident. Actual statements like, "Heaven needed another angel, and that is why God took that little one home," is a sad satire of the inadequate view of divine love that some believers have.

Thankfully the Psalmist did not resort to such trite statements as he processed his undesirable predicament. Instead he spoke honestly about his contribution to his circumstance and his impending need. His narration then provided a viable solution with a clear portrait of God's love and what the believer must do to access it.

