School of Prayer
Know and Believe the Love God has for us

I John 4:16-19

And we have **come to know** and **have believed** the love which God has for us. **God is love**, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us.

>**Come to know**=ginosko=Relational—vs knowledge (experiential)
>>Progressive—you don't perceive it all at once
>>Effectual—changes the one who knows Him

>**Have Believed**=pepisteukamen=to be persuaded; affirm, have confidence in; have
>>faith, trust in.

- The Lord accesses His creation through the giving and receiving of love. This is the entry point—the divine strategy of recovery—-to ransom our hearts—and make us sons.

- **Definition of Love**=agape=26=a benevolent love—not doing what person loved desires, but what the one who loves deems as needed by the one loved. Unselfish love; it is more an action and reaction, than a feeling.

- **Old covenant/New covenant—**
  >**Old:** Matthew 22:36-40
  >**New:** John 13:34-35 (Christianity is not just about restraining old behavior—but living
  >>from an exchanged life)

He Loves First:
John 3:16

I John 3:1

- Relationship is initiated with the giving/receiving of one another—establishing a love bond.

- Strategy of the evil one: Keep us from believing we are loved. (Wounded souls: Betrayal, Rejection, Abandonment—**infection** (**harbors deception—conceiving and believing a lie)**

- Fear will keep us in slavery our entire lives—we will live as orphans or slaves—rather than sons. (The evil one looks for a 'breech'/ destroys 'connectors'—and our ability to trust)

- **Love is a fruit of the Indwelling Spirit.** To bear this fruit—you must receive the Lord—in a love relationship/ Sonship/Bride. (Galatians 5:22-23—Listed first for a reason)
  >I John 4:7-12