

**Video Lecture Transcript**  
***Intimacy with God with Katherine Ruonala***  
**(Session 1)**

Hello, I'm Katherine Ruonala. Welcome to the series on the "Father's Heart". You know, knowing the heart of God for us, the love of God for us is the entrance way into a supernatural lifestyle. The Bible tells us that, "Those who know their God shall be strong and do great exploits." And that word "Know" means to be intimately connected with Him. And You know, it's hard to have faith in somebody that you don't really know. And the beautiful truth that I want to share with you today, is that God is love. and His love for us is far beyond what we can humanly comprehend.

I want to read a scripture with you that changed my life. Ephesians chapter 3 has an Apostolic prayer that Paul prayed for all believers, and I was in a Full Gospel's Businessmen's meeting once many years ago. And I went in, I was just invited to come and sing a song and I heard someone testify, how they had prayed this prayer. They personalized it for themselves, and they prayed it every day for three months and started to have angelic visitations during their quiet time with God. And I just got so excited, I thought, "I'm going to do that."

You know sometimes it's a good thing to be a copycat when it comes to the things of God. And so, I thought, "Well I'm going to try that." Because I was somebody that was so insecure; I would go out and have dinner with people, and I'd get back in the car with my husband, and ask, "Oh, what do you think, what do you think they thought about me? Did I do okay? I probably shouldn't have said that." I was just so self-conscious and so insecure. Coming from a background of abandonment and abuse, and rejection, and I really struggled to understand the love of God. And without knowing His love, we will continually be insecure, but the beautiful news is that the, "Perfect love of God casts out fear." And when His love comes in and casts out fear, faith is activated, and we get to see miracles. We get to see the glory of God revealed, and we no longer have to be afraid that somehow, we're not qualified; we're not able to release the power of God, because we know who it is that has taken us into Himself. We know who it is that we've been identified with and we know just how much He cares for us. And that wonderful love is what qualifies us; His great goodness.

So, this is the prayer that He read from Ephesians 3; it says here in verse 14, "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. I just love that; we get our identity from Him. Now that we have become born again believers, it's no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us. In fact, He's given us a new name. He's says that we are part of Him, which is so powerful. We may talk about that a little more later. He goes on to say, "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

You know I looked at this prayer, and I just began to personalize it for myself. Every day I put it on a recording, I play it in the car, I'd get beside my bed in the mornings and I'd pray this knowing that the Bible said, "Whatever I ask according to the will of God, I could have." And I knew enough to know that well this is the scripture; this is a prayer for all believers, and I knew I needed this revelation. I needed a supernatural revelation of God's love to change me on the inside; to really cast out all the fear and insecurity. And I wanted Him to really cause me to be rooted and grounded in Him so that all of my hope and my foundation was based on His love. I knew I needed to know it, and I needed supernatural help, hallelujah. So, I prayed it like this, I prayed, "Lord You are my Father, and it's from You that I get my name and identity. I pray Lord that you would grant me according to the riches of Your glory, to be strengthened with might through Your Spirit in my inner being; that Christ may dwell in my heart through faith. That I, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that I may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now as I began to pray this prayer, day by day God began a process of bringing revelation understanding. I remember one morning waking up with a song in my heart. The Holy Spirit had just put a worship song in my heart, and I began to worship; began to sing. And then all of a sudden, the glory of God came so strongly. It was like this weighty presence that pinned me to

the bed, and I was speechless, I was unable to move. It was just such a Holy awe of God in the room. And I couldn't speak, "Ah God." And as I just laid there, the Lord began to put a song in my mouth, and He began to sing these words through me. He began to sing, "I kiss you with clean lips oh Lord, lips that You've given to me. I kiss you with clean lips oh Lord, because Your grace is sufficient for me." And then, "Ah" I couldn't speak again, and it was like a forced Selah. And as I just sat there and thought about what the Lord had just spoken to me through me, I began to realize, "Wow, God has given me clean lips so that I can come close to Him! So that I don't have to be afraid of being rejected by God, but He has given me clean lips, and a pure heart, because of what Jesus has done. That my ability to approach Him and receive His love was not based on my works, or based on my performance, but based on the performance of Jesus, halleluiah." And so I was able to, God just day-by-day began to strengthen me on the inside and supernaturally help me deconstruct all the lies that I believed about God.

You know the Bible says, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." We get to know Him by reading about Him in His Word, by fellowshiping Him with the Word of God, by fellowshiping with Him in worship. And when we come to worship Him, our delight is that He wants us to boldly approach the Throne of Grace. That can only happen as we understand the Father's heart toward us, otherwise, we're going to be afraid that He's going to be somehow annoyed or frustrated with us. I used to have that perspective of God. I would somehow think that He was always, well He loved me because He had too. You know God is love, and I remember one day when I was just a new teacher, a young teacher, I got a job at a Christian school. And I'd been teaching for a couple of years in a secular high school, and then got a job at a Christian school. During the orientation they said, "Go away for fifteen minutes and just write down on a piece of paper what the Lord says to you." So, I thought, "Alright." I took my piece of paper, I said, "Okay Lord, what do you want to say to me?" And I heard Him say these words, "I love you." And I thought, "Well, everybody knows that; come on Lord, tell me what You want to change. I'm open, I'm ready for You to fix me. Come on; convict me, tell me what I've done wrong. Help me, show me what you want me to do. Show me, whatever it is. I'm happy to hear you." And for fifteen minutes I heard three words, "I love you." You know I went away from that time, brought it back to the room where I thought, "Oh, this is going to be embarrassing; all these people being away for fifteen minutes, and they're going to come to me and say, "What did God

say to you in those fifteen minutes?" And I had three words, and I didn't really understand thought they were the three words I needed to hear more than anything else. Because thought I had a concept of God's love, I really hadn't had the true supernatural experience of understanding by revelation and experience the love that God has for us.

You see God's love is not like human love. Human love; if you offend somebody, you got to work pretty hard to regain their trust. They tend to put a wall up and then you got to work at trying to help them bring that wall down again so that you can reconcile. But God knew what we were going to do before we ever did it. In fact, a friend of mine says, "God's not disillusioned with you, because He never had any illusions about you in the first place."

And the reality is if we approach Him in faith, He is looking at us with such love. His eyes when He looks at us, His eyes towards you are so soft; they're so full of love, because He knows that He is the answer to everything that you need. Whatever mess, whatever brokenness, He is our answer. As we come to Him saying, "Forgive me for my sins", He forgives us. "He's faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

And I've learned as I bring my need and my weakness to Him, He's able to come in and fill me, if I'll just be real with Him and allow Him to help me. You see God's not up there a long way away, He is our ever-present help. The Holy Spirit is right here with us wanting to give us more help than most of us ever take advantage of. In fact, it's His delight; He wants to be more involved with you in your life then you could possibly understand. And the delight that I began to understand was that God is always happy to see me.

Sometimes I'd come into worship and I'd go to lift my hands and I'd feel like a bit of a hypocrite. I'd feel like, "Well here I am in church, and you know I haven't really spent quite as much time in the presence of God and praying this week as I should have." Or I'd feel bad about something that I might have said, and I'd repent and confess my sin, but still feel like I really deserved to put myself in a bit of the naughty corner really. That to just come and worship God, when I knew I really didn't deserve to be in His presence made me feel like I was afraid to really enter in. You know that's what happened with Adam and Eve in the garden, when they sinned, their natural reaction was to hide themselves. But the problem comes that when we bring our sin to Him, when we confess our sin, we must believe in who He is. That He is more willing to forgive

us than we are willing to forgive ourselves, because His love is not like human love. His love doesn't sort of standoff; you know He doesn't look at you and say, "Well how dare you come to Me. It's going to take me some time to get over what you did. He knows all about us and in fact, the moment He sees us, He loves us. He looks at us and just says, "Angels come and look, look, they're here!"

You know it's like when I would come home from work and my young son would greet me at the door. And He'd put His hand up and go, "Oh Mommy!" And my mother's heart would melt, I would not be able to resist, but reach down, pick him up and hold him. And how much more does God love us? He doesn't look at us going, "Help God, help Daddy!" And look at us and say, "Ah I'm not going to reveal my presence to you. I'm not going to embrace you because I know what you've been doing." He looks at us coming to him in faith, and He comes, and He wraps His arms around us.

Let me show you this through the Word of God. Today I want to have a look at the Book of Luke, where we hear the story of the Prodigal Son, halleluiah. You see, Jesus was speaking to the disciples, and He wanted them to understand who the Father was. He said, "If you've seen Me, you see the Father." And He told parables to help us understand who the Father was; let me read this passage. It says in Luke 15, verse 11, "Then He said: A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me to portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted His possessions with prodigal living. And when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger. I'll arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I've sinned against you, and against heaven and before you, and I'm no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.' So, he arose and came to his father." But listen to this, "But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him,

‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and I’m no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to the servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry."

You know this story is a picture of how God responds to us every day, not just when we first come to Him. But every time we come to Him feeling weak and unworthy, He sees us taking just the littlest step, and He runs toward us. He wraps His arms around us before we've even been able to get out the words. His goodness and His kindness lead us to repentance. It causes our hearts to go, "Oh God, I've sinned against You." and He goes, "Yes and I forgive you."

And in fact, He comes, and He restores authority, He gives us everything that belongs to Him. He makes us co-heirs with Christ, He puts a ring on our finger, a robe of authority on us, He puts shoes on our feet, and blesses us extravagantly; killing the fatted calf. And it makes no human sense, but you see, this is why you need supernatural help to be able to comprehend this love. And understanding that will cause your life to be different. God doesn't want you living with insecurity and fear. He wants you to be with Him where He is, as He is, seated with Him in heavenly places. So that instead of struggling continually with your own insecurities, He wants you to receive; give up that insecurity to Him, and receive his love, and let it overflow in your life. So that when you are ministering, when you are looking at other people, you're no longer drawing from them, trying to get what you need from them, but instead you are able to release the overflow of God's love for them. And God's love is demonstrated tangibly in signs, and wonders, and miracles. I mean the power of God that He wants to release through you is so glorious. He wants to transform lives through you because as He is, so are we in this world. So, this is a fundamental foundational truth that we've got to understand. God loves us.

You are accepted in the beloved because of what the Lord has done for us. Because of what Jesus has done, our Messiah; because He took our place, because He was punished for us, we now are identified with Him. In fact, we become the righteousness of God in Christ. And as we believe and receive His mercy, God wants to activate our faith by His love and cause His love to transform other lives, halleluiah. You know I believe that even as we take time to reach out to God, God wants to strengthen us in this revelation.

Even recently, I was in worship and just took some time to go deeper, we were in corporate worship in one of our Friday night services, and we'd worship for an hour or so. And just the Spirit of God was moving so powerfully, we just felt to keep going, keep pressing in, and in worship, I believe it's our opportunity to be divinely embraced by God; for us to bless Him, and Him to bless us. He knows us, He understands us. When I'm alone with Him, whether its privately in my room, or corporately worshipping, God understands me. in fact, in the Passion translation in Psalm 38 he says, "That He knows my deepest longings and greatest desires. My tears are liquid words and You can read them all." And I love that, He understands me, He knows my tears, He gets me. I don't have to explain or justify myself to Him, but I can talk freely with Him knowing that He completely gets me. And knowing that He knows me, He's able to heal me everywhere I need help. He's able to undo the knots, and He's able to minister to me in such a way, that it goes so deep; He restores our soul. And in worship, you know that's what's happening; we're being restored. We're having the strength of God cause us to, "mount up on wings as eagles, so we'll run and not grow weary, walk and not faint." And that strengthening often brings adjustment in our thinking and in our hearts, and so I love to spend time in worship. But this particular night I was worshipping God, and I felt the Lord say; actually, the Lord took me into heaven. And I was in these halls and I couldn't see Him, but I could sense His presence very near, and I could hear His voice. And He began to call out of me many of the things that He'd put in my heart about the future. And in fact, as He called it out of me, He released to me a fresh impartation of the gift of faith. And I felt myself just saying, "Lord I believe! Lord I believe!"

With a fresh power to be able to really receive and believe the promises He has for me; and you know, that's what the love of God will do. It will empower you to believe that now, "Unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above." You know God wants to do so much more than we can ask, hope, or imagine. And that is a natural overflow of receiving His love. So, He began to bring me into this new place of faith, just believing the promises that He has for me. And then after quite some time He said, "Would you like to come in and into the next room?" He was inviting me into meet people. And so in the vision, I went in and I saw this big room filled with people. And I got quite excited and thought, "Oh what am I going to see?" But as soon as I

got into the room, across the room I saw the Lord Jesus, and He fixed His eyes on me, and was making a beeline for me. In fact, it was as thought, it was like I would do when I'm in church, and I see somebody that I haven't seen for a while. And I fix my eyes on them, and just want to make a beeline to them, to embrace them. That's what He was doing for me. He made a beeline for me, and He was so happy to see me. And I realize as I saw this, I was not interested in seeing anybody else, I didn't even want to know what was going on. I was transfixed on the fact that Jesus was so happy to see me. and you know it revealed my heart to me. that my spirit really desired above all else to be connected with Him, to know Him, to be in union with Him. That my desire for Him was greater than anything else. And that was a good revelation for me, because sometimes I judge myself as not really having Jesus as m highest priority. But the Lord was revealing to me that my spirit craves Him and fellowship with Him above anything else. And you know what? Your spirit, the Spirit of God within you craves, yearns, cries out, "Abba Father!" Your spirit cries out to know God and to know Him in ever increasing ways. And He has created you, your deepest desire is for fellowship with Him. And you know, I truly desire that as we go on with this series, that you're going to really become rooted and grounded in love. In fact, that you would be a copycat, and that you would begin to take this Apostolic prayer, and pray for yourselves, because I know what transformation comes from it. Through that three-month period that I was deliberately doing this, my life changed. In fact, people who saw me began to say, "Wow, you look really different." And the reality was I held myself really differently, I walked differently because God was beginning to show me that I don't have to prove myself to anybody.

I was His beloved; I was the "Apple of His Eye". You know the apple of God's eye is His soft spot; that's that really tender part of the eye. God so cares about you and I, that He makes Himself vulnerable to love from us. In fact, He created you as His soft spot. That's why the enemy hates you so much. That's why he goes after you, because you're the soft spot of God, you are God's apple, the apple of is eye. You are the one that He loves so very much and His desire for you is greater than your desire for Him. Yet He wants to impart love to you to call out from your heart a deep crying out to deep that says I want to know You in an ever-increasing way. And as you embrace this "One Thing" that it talks about in Psalm 27; "One thing have I desired, and this shall I seek. That I might dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life." He



wants you to begin to see Him and to know Him. I'm going to share some more about, how much He loves us, and how you can practically get to know Him. How to fellowship with Him as you spend time with Him; as you seek His face.

Sometimes people struggle, "Oh I want that." But if you would begin to deliberately ask, the Bible says, "You have not, because you ask not." And if you'll begin to ask the Lord for help, that you'll begin praying this believing not as a beggar saying, "Oh I hope I get something." But believing what the Bible tells us, "That whatever we ask according to His will" we can have; then you'll pray this in faith saying, "Yes Lord, I believe, I receive it."

I want you to take it and begin to believe and see it happening with the eyes of your understanding. See God begin to truly transform you; imagine what it's going to be like to walk into a room? And instead of feeling concerned about what everyone's thinking, walking into a room so secure in His love; sensing His arms around you, that He's standing with you, that He's walking with you. You know people are going to see a difference. The Bible says, "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. You know when people see someone that's so secure in God, what they will be able to do is be able to receive from you what God wants to give. If there encountering you and you are trying to pull from them affirmation and what you need to feel okay about yourself, then they're going to react and put walls up. But if instead you've already received from Him on a daily basis, all your needs, all your emotional, spiritual, physical, financial; if you are receiving from Him, then when you meet people, they are going to meet Jesus. You're going to be the aroma of Christ to those who are perishing.

So, I want to pray for you now as we close; Father, I'm asking that You would cause us, Father each one watching Lord, to be rooted and grounded in Your love. That You would give us supernatural strength to be able to comprehend this love. That we may be filled with all the fullness of God.

I want to take some time in the coming programs to share with you some of the experiences that I've had with the love of God and some practical ways for you to really engage with this love that will transform your life. God bless you.