

**Introduction: “God drew me close to Him with His unfailing love.”**

**Learning how to experience God’s love by “opening the window of our soul”**

### **Closed window...**

Sin in my life and disobedience to God’s Word keeps me from experiencing God’s love.

*<sup>9</sup>“I have loved you even as the Father has loved Me. Remain in My love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey My commandments, you remain in My love, just as I obey My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.*

John 15:9-10

*But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love Me and obey My commands.*

Deuteronomy 5:10

### **Open window...**

I will live \_\_\_\_\_ because God’s love is perfected in lives that are pure.

*<sup>4</sup> The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps His Word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him.*

1 John 2:4-5

### **Steps to take:**

1. Make confession a part of your daily life; keep short accounts. Psalm 51:1-2
2. Spend time in God’s Word on a regular basis (5-7 days per week). Psalm 119:11

### **Questions to ask:**

1. Is there any area of my life that needs to be cleaned up? Any sin in my life that I have not confessed to God that is separating me from Him?
2. Do I spend regular time reading and meditating on God’s Word so that I can know Him and have an intimate relationship with Him?

### Closed window...

A believer's learned way of thinking about themselves (self-talk) can keep them from experiencing God's love.

*For as he thinks within himself, so he is.*

Proverbs 23:7a

### Open window...

I will fill my mind with God's \_\_\_\_\_ to overcome the negative belief I have learned. I will cling to His \_\_\_\_\_ for my life.

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*

Philippians 4:8

<sup>76</sup> *May Your unfailing love be my comfort, according to Your promise to Your servant.*

<sup>77</sup> *Let Your compassion come to me that I may live, for Your law is my delight.*

Psalms 119:76-77

### **Steps to take:**

1. Evaluate your own thinking patterns against Philippians 4:8. Does your self-talk align with God's truth about you?
2. Begin the process of replacing those lies with God's truth (fix your mind on what is true and honorable and right).

### **Questions to ask:**

1. Do I believe that God loves me unconditionally and always desires what is best for my life?
2. Does my identity come from my past and what others say about me? Or is it rooted in Christ?

### Closed window...

A believer who is building the foundation of their life on worldly, temporal things instead of on God's foundation and eternal things will have a hard time experiencing God's love.

*<sup>15</sup> Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. <sup>16</sup> For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. <sup>17</sup> And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.*

1 John 2:15-17

### Open window...

I will \_\_\_\_\_ my life (all that I am and all that I have) to my Father in Heaven (the only One who is able and willing to give me all things to enjoy).

*...For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.*

Romans 5:5

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.*

Romans 12:1

### **Steps to take:**

1. Build the foundation of your life on God's Word. Isaiah 40:8
2. Seek His will in everything you do. Romans 12:1-2
3. Choose by faith to surrender (sign over) every part of your life to God each day. Galatians 2:20

### **Question to ask:**

Can I, today, quit trying to run my life my own way and surrender everything to God, the true lover of my soul, and allow His Spirit to have freedom to work in every area of my life?

### Closed window...

A believer who listens to Satan's lies and accusations about God's Word and God's character will miss the signs of God's love.

*<sup>1</sup>The serpent was the craftiest of all the creatures the Lord God had made. So the serpent came to the woman. "Really?" he asked. "None of the fruit in the garden? God says you mustn't eat any of it?" <sup>2-3</sup>"Of course we may eat it," the woman told him. "It's only the fruit from the tree at the center of the garden that we are not to eat. God says we mustn't eat it or even touch it, or we will die." <sup>4</sup>"That's a lie!" the serpent hissed. "You'll not die! <sup>5</sup>God knows very well that the instant you eat it you will become like Him, for your eyes will be opened—you will be able to distinguish good from evil!" <sup>6</sup>The woman was convinced. How lovely and fresh looking it was! And it would make her so wise! So she ate some of the fruit and gave some to her husband, and he ate it too. <sup>7</sup>And as they ate it, suddenly they became aware of their nakedness, and were embarrassed. So they strung fig leaves together to cover themselves around the hips.*

Genesis 3:1-7

### Open window...

I will \_\_\_\_\_ specifically against the accusations of Satan and refuse to believe his lies. I will ask God to increase my knowledge and awareness of His love for me.

*<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup>for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup>We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.*

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

### **Steps to take:**

1. Stand firm against Satan's lies! Matthew 4
2. For every doubt, pray a prayer! Ephesians 3:14-19

### **Question to ask:**

Do I constantly listen to Satan's lies that cause me to doubt God's goodness in my life, His love for me, and the truth of His Word?

### Discussion Questions:

1. What aspects of this message were most helpful to you? Why?
2. Which of the four “windows of your soul” have you felt closed you off from experiencing God’s love?
3. Share what you think it will look like to open that window in your life. What steps will you need to take this week?
4. Who might help you on your journey of opening the “window of your soul” to experience God’s love? Why is it so important to enlist the help of trusted friends and mentors as we seek to know and experience God’s love?
5. Who might God want you to help as they seek to open a “window of their soul”?