

The place to start in growing in the First Commandment is to stay connected to the reality of God's love for us



Yeshua: **“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”** John 15:9

Growing in Love

We are spending the next several weeks in our groups talking about how we can grow in the first and great commandment of loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. The first place to start to grow in love is to meditate on and abide in Yeshua's love for us. I think the above verse would be my favorite verse related to growing in the love of God. This verse is amazing in its implications.

Yeshua states that in the same way that the Father loves Him that Yeshua loves us in that same way. I have no problem believing in the love of the

Father for His Son, but I often have difficulty believing that Yeshua loves me/us in that same way. Yet that is what this passage is clearly stating. Then Yeshua closes out this verse by commanding us to abide in the reality of this love. Part of abiding in this love means that we are to stay connected to this love, to think often and freely about this love, to sing about this love, to never stray far from the reality of this love.

If we are growing in feeling this love on the inside, we will then be able to better express our love to God in return. Because He first loved us, we are now empowered to love Him in return. I can't "work up" love in my heart for Him, but I can meditate on His love and think about His mercy and goodness. As I do this, my love will grow as a byproduct.

I look forward to discussing more about growing in this first and great commandment tomorrow.