

# Experiencing God's Love

August – September 2023 Zone Conferences

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# Experiencing God's Love

- How do we experience God's love?
- What is the impact of feeling God's love?

## Why Does Heavenly Father Love Us?

“We are important to God not because of our résumé but because we are His children. He loves every one of us, even those who are flawed, rejected, awkward, sorrowful, or broken. God’s love is so great that He loves even the proud, the selfish, the arrogant, and the wicked. What this means is that, regardless of our current state, there is hope for us.”



President Dieter F. Uchtdorf  
“The Love of God” - October 2009



# Job 35:5-7

“Look unto the heavens, and see; and behold the clouds which are higher than thou. If thou sinnest, what doest thou against him? or if thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto him? If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand?”



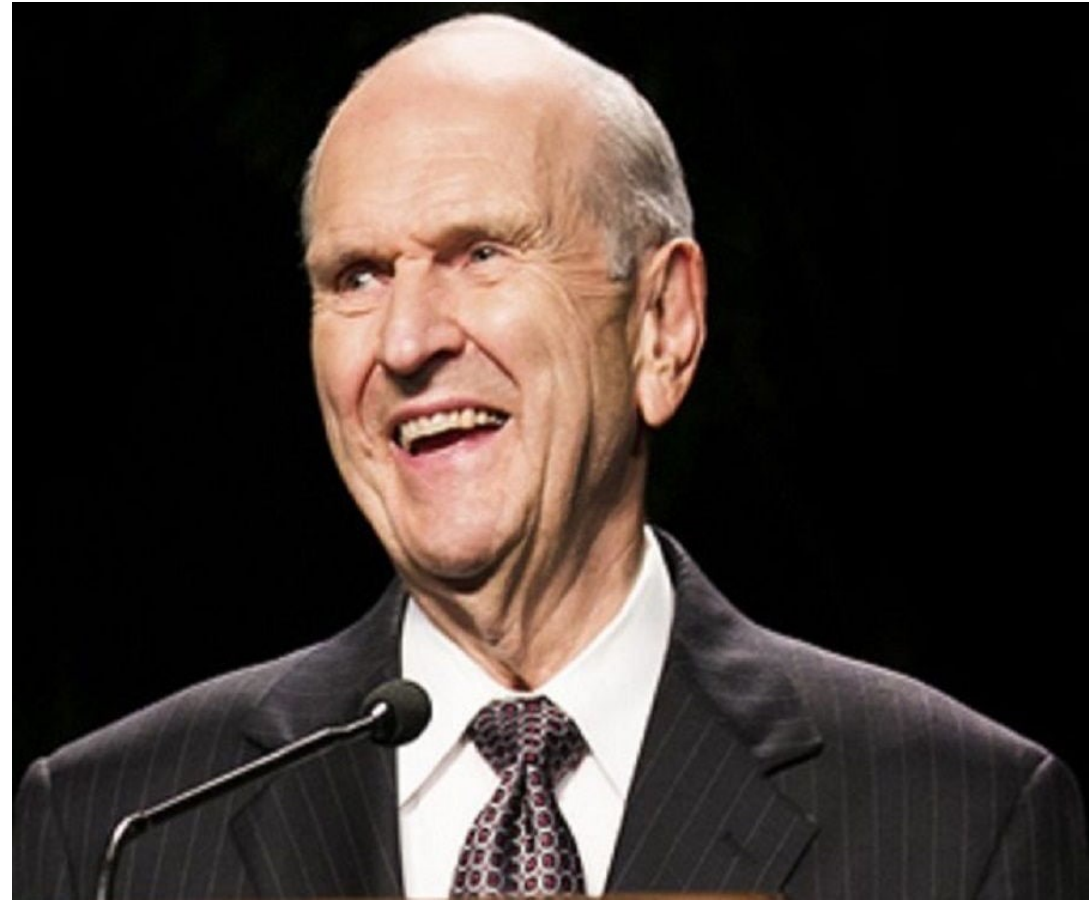
“More than anything, our Father wants His children to *choose* to return home to Him. Everything He does is motivated by His yearning desire. The entire reason we are on this earth is to qualify to live with Him forever. We do that by using our agency to find and stay on the covenant path that leads back to our heavenly home.”



President Russell M. Nelson  
The Love and Laws of God – September 17, 2019

“Because the Father and the Son love us with infinite, perfect love and because They know we cannot see everything They see, They have given us laws that will guide and protect us. There is a strong connection between God’s love and His laws. I have come to see the significance of that connection and the power of divine law.”

What connection do you see  
between God’s love and His laws?



President Russell M. Nelson  
The Love and Laws of God – September 17, 2019



“My message is that God’s universal and perfect love is shown in all the blessings of His gospel plan, including the fact that His choicest blessings are reserved for those who obey His laws.”

Where do you see God’s love in  
His gospel plan?



President Dallin H. Oaks  
“Love and Law” – October 2009



“Our Heavenly Father loves us profoundly and perfectly. In His love, He created a plan, a plan of redemption and happiness to **open to us all the opportunities and joys we are willing to receive**, up to and including all that He has and is.”

What opportunities and joys is he talking about?



Elder D. Todd Christopherson  
“The Love of God” October 2021

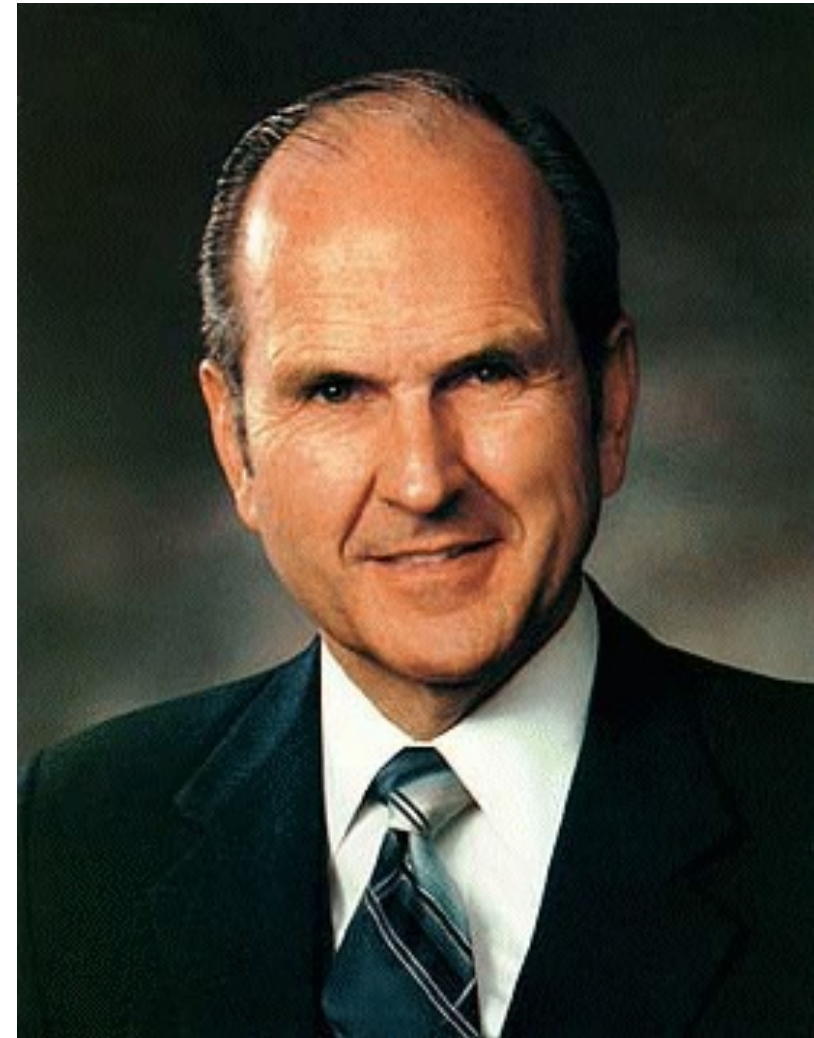


Elder D. Todd Christopherson  
“The Love of God” October 2021

“Because They love you, They do not want to leave you ‘just as you are.’ Because They love you, They want you to have joy and success. Because They love you, They want you to repent because that is the path to happiness. But it is your choice—They honor your agency. You must choose to love Them, to serve Them, to keep Their commandments. Then They can more abundantly bless you as well as love you.”

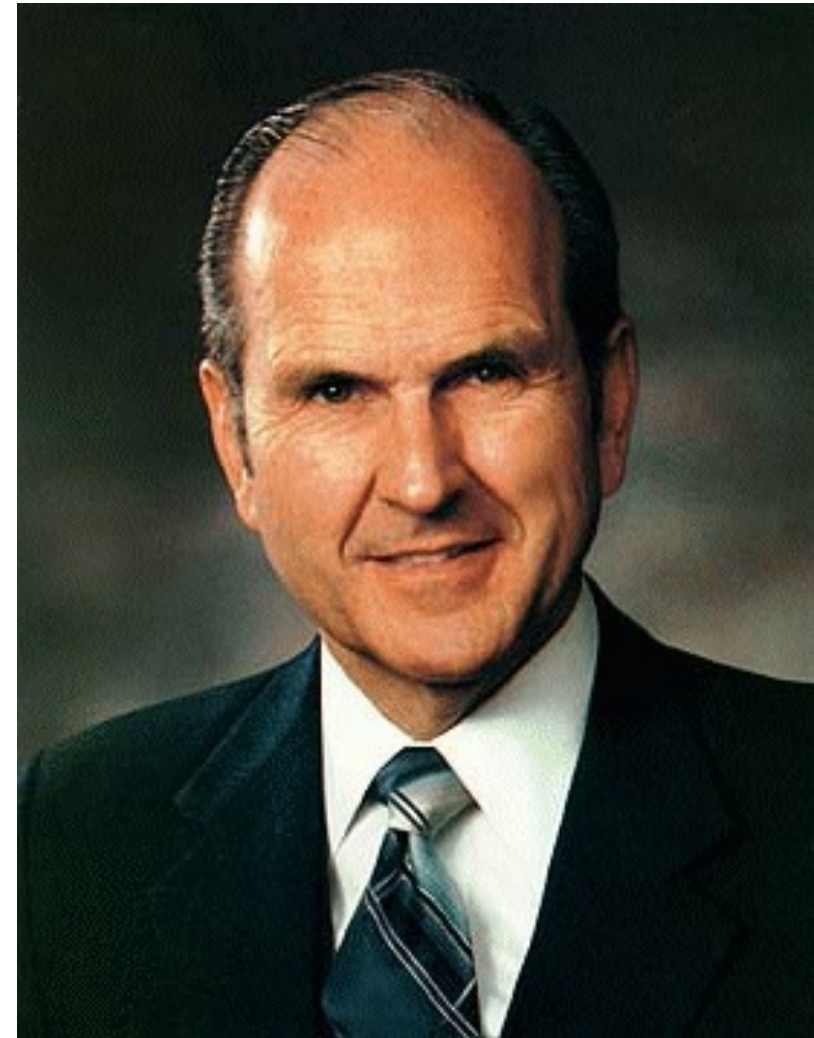
“While divine love can be called perfect, infinite, enduring, and universal, it cannot correctly be characterized as unconditional. The word does not appear in the scriptures. On the other hand, many verses affirm that the **higher levels of love** the Father and the Son feel for each of us—and certain divine blessings stemming from that love—are conditional.”

What are these higher levels of love?



Elder Russell M. Nelson  
“Divine Love” Liahona Feb 2003

“The **full flower** of divine love and our greatest blessings from that love are conditional—predicated upon our obedience to eternal law.”



Elder Russell M. Nelson  
"Divine Love" Liahona Feb 2003



# Conditional Scriptures

- If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love. John 15:10
- If you keep not my commandments, the love the Father shall not continue with you. D&C 95:12
- If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him. John 14:23
- God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. Acts 10:34-35
- The Lord loveth those who will have him to be their God. 1 Nephi 17:40
- I, the Lord am bound when ye do what I say: but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise. D&C 82:10
- All who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law which was appointed for that blessing, and the conditions thereof... D&C 132:5

# Romans 8:35, 38-39

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

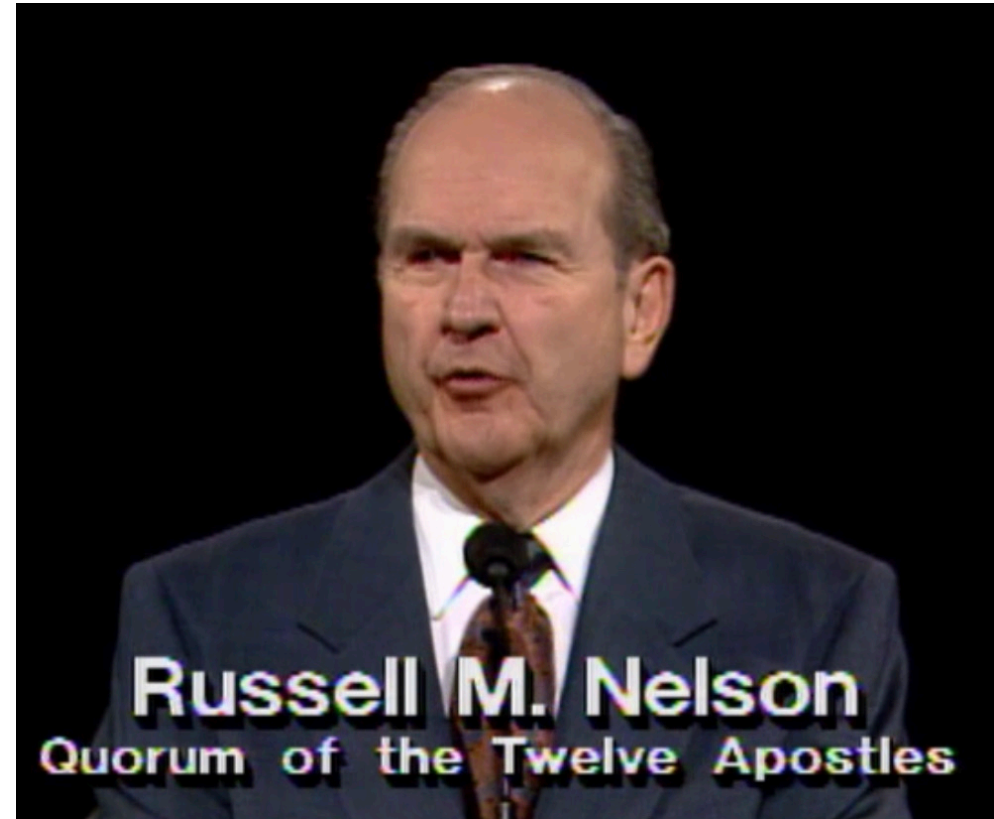
What can separate us from the love of God?



“God’s love is so perfect that He lovingly requires us to obey His commandments because He knows that only through obedience to His laws can we become perfect, as He is. For this reason, God’s anger and His wrath are not a contradiction of His love but an evidence of His love. Every parent knows that you can love a child totally and completely while still being creatively angry and disappointed at that child’s self-defeating behavior.”

What self-defeating behaviors might he be talking about?

“Real love for the sinner may compel courageous confrontation—not acquiescence! Real love does not support self-destructing behavior.”



“Teach Us Tolerance and Love”  
April 1994



# Who has felt the love of God?

- Nephi – The vision of the tree of Life and more.... (2 Nephi 4:21)
- Enos – When his faith began to be unshaken. (Enos 1:11)
- Alma (the father) – Battle with Amlici. (Alma 2:30-31)
- Alma the Younger – Visited by an angel and repents (Alma 36:20)
- Helaman – When not a single stripling warrior was killed (Alma 56:56)
- Nephi & Lehi (sons of Helaman) – Encircled by fire in prison (Hel 5:44)
- A great multitude - Christ's appearance in America (3 Nephi 11:16-17)
- Mormon – Visited of the Lord at age 15 (Mormon 1:15)
- The Brother of Jared – Sees the Lord (Ether 3:19)
- Moroni's closing statement – Be perfected in Christ (Mormon 10:32)

# The Power of God's Love in Paul's Life

- Born with Roman citizenship, a Pharisee and a pupil of Gamaliel.
- Actively persecuted Christians.
- Saw a vision of Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus.
- Was converted as a result of the vision and then baptized by Ananias.
- Preached for nearly 20 years across the Middle East and Europe.
- Returned to Jerusalem where he was arrested and imprisoned in Caesarea for two years and then sent to Rome for a trial.
- Shipwrecked and then imprisoned in Rome 2 years. Released.
- Preached 4 more years and was killed as a martyr in A.D. 65.

“Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches..”



Paul

What has God done for you?



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# Summary

- God is Love. He gets no benefit for our righteousness and no penalty for our sins. He simply loves us and wants us to be with Him eternally. He wants to give us ALL.
- God's laws are indicators of His love for us.
- The Plan of Salvation is evidence that He loves us.
- All opportunities and joys are available to us.
- God wants us to repent – but we get to choose.
- God's higher divine love is conditional. It is based on righteousness.
- Courageous confrontation is often required to counter self-destructive behaviors
- When a person feels God's love deeply, they will stop at nothing to fulfill His will.
- We all need the Master's Touch. We are all marred, bruised, damaged, and broken.