

KEYS FOR OVERCOMING FEAR: LOVE
Overcoming Fear Study Session III

Key Scripture: 1 John 4:16-21

The key to overcoming fear addressed in this study is love — a love-driven life.

I. The Foundation of a Love-Driven Life 1 John 4:16

A. The Fact of God's Love

- Why do people doubt God's love?

B. The Focus of a Love-Driven Life

- We have thought about fear a lot in these weeks. When people live a fear-controlled life, what is the focus of their thinking? Let's say a person is so controlled by his or her fear the individual will not go to the grocery store – a normal, required task. Compare and contrast the possible focuses of a person with a fear-driven life and how a person with a love-driven life should think differently.

A Fear-Driven Life vs. A Love-Driven Life	

C. The Fellowship of a Love-Driven Life

II. The Fruit of a Love-Driven Life 4:17-18

A. Perfecting Love 17a

B. Emboldening Love 17b

C. Overcoming Love 18

1. A Bold Claim 18a

- Stop and Think: According to God's Word, can you be controlled by a fear and have a love-driven life at the same time?
- Think about this: Does my fear change God's love for me? Whatever happens to me, does God stop loving me? Is there any time when I can justify not responding to God and others out of love?

2. A Bleak Reality 18b

- Do you know of someone who has experienced the torment of a fear-driven life? Tell the story.

3. A Revealing Reality 18c

- In Other Words...

How would you restate in your own words what God said?

What does this mean about an individual who is overcome with fear?

III. The Focus of a Love-Driven Life 19-21

A. My love for God 19a

B. God’s love for Me 19b

C. My love for others 20-21

Your Bible Study Project: We will do a study on the subject of love in the book of 1 John with groups within your small group. Your assignment is to read the passage assigned to your group, answer the question, and then report to your entire group the answer to your question. Your Bible study facilitator will guide you through it. Here are your study assignments.

1. 3:16-18 How would you describe Christ’s love according to v. 16? How does this apply to loving others when God touches someone’s heart to help someone else?
2. 4:7-8 What does God say about someone who does not evidence love for believers in the Lord?
3. 4:9-10 What is the proof of God’s love for you? Look up Romans 8:35-39 and tell your group how it applies.
4. 4:11-12 In this passage what does God say people who love him ought to do? God says that “no man hath seen God.” How does this relate to the next phrase, “God dwelleth in us and, his love is perfected (seen, revealed, fulfilled) in us.”?
5. 5:1-3 This passage tells two ways we prove our love for God. What are they?
 1. (v. 1)
 2. (vv. 2-3)

Homework? Of course! This is how you grow!

You have been immersed in the subject of a love-driven life. Now it is time to take it to the next level. Your assignment is to take one primary fear you deal with and think it through Biblically. As you do, ask God to reveal reality to you, forgive your false thinking, and lead you into the freedom of a love-driven life.

My Fear-Driven Focus	A Love-Driven Focus

Prayer: This is a very personal area of life. Ask God for faith to believe Him about His love for you, to accept the reality of your fears (no more justifications for a fear-driven life), and to transform your life into a love-driven life.