

**LOVE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING.** M. A., DANIEL

This is the continuation of knowing the God of the new covenant. Love is the key to all that God does. Love explains who God is, what he does and what we have access to. Love is the key to being like God.

**Gods love to us**

The Psalmist declares that Gods love is from old stating that its been in existence from ancient times. The Bible states that all that God had planned for us has been from the foundations of the Earth. Gods love and mercy predates the creation of man. The Psalmist also declare that **Gods love endure forever which means it will outlast our time here on Earth.**

**(Ps 25:6,Ps85:7,Ps118:29,Ps136:1)**

The most powerful demonstration of Gods love to us is the gift of Jesus to us so that we can have hope and an assurance of everlasting life. Many people read this passage emphasising the wrong thing, many read **John 3 :16** as God gave Jesus and if you don't believe, you will perish. The right way is that God loved us so much that he gave us a sure way to help all who desire to make heaven and live forever. This fact is further supported by **John15:13** that reiterates that Jesus gave his life as demonstration of the greatest type of love for us. The magnitude of this love is demonstrated by the fact that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.(Rom 5:8).It is very important to state that this love identifies those who know God and puts a seal to us as Gods children.**(1 john 4:8)**. God the father loves the son and has shown it by giving all things into his hand.

Jesus transferred that love to us by putting it our disposal.**(John 3;35,John 17;26,2 Tim1:7,Mat28:18)**.Gods love to us was not dependent on what we did, he chose to love us and fully demonstrated that love by providing a propitiation in the person of Jesus to redeem us to him. Gods love will never change and its completely unconditional. God will never give up on you.**(Rom 8:31-35)**.

**2 Peter 1:5-10**

**"5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. .... 10.....for if you do these things you will never stumble."**

**Our love to God**

Since the beginning of time, we have been charged to love God with our whole heart and mind and strength.**(Deut 6:5,Deut 10:12,Deut11:22-23)**.

Jesus came to expatiate on this by saying that we cannot serve God and other things. This makes it very clear that our focus is meant to be God alone.**(Mat 6:24)**.Jesus further crystallised the fact that the first law is to love God with all our heart and soul and might. This makes it clear that if we love God, we will not worship any other god,



we will not speak his name in vain, or disregard all that has been commanded by him. **(Mark 12:30,Luke 10:26-28)**. Jesus also makes a point that if you love God, then you will love the person that comes from him. Loving Jesus is a proof of our love for God.**(John 8:42)**. There is a wonderful promise for those who love God, the Bible states that all things work together for those who love God and it further adds that there is a special plan God has for those who love him and that this plan is revealed to us by his spirit. So our love for God has been commanded and this is one of the fulcrum on which the law has been based, our love for Jesus whom God sent to us is the ultimate proof of our love for God. This love comes with lots of benefits from Heaven. **The response to Gods unconditional love, is to love him unconditionally.****(1 Cor 2:9-10,1 John5:1-3)**.

**Loving Others**

Gods command from the beginning of time covered the widows, the orphans and even the strangers living among the Israelites. The lord showed his compassion and mercy by graciously looking out for the vulnerable in our midst. His love for others is the second part of his commandments. We have been commanded to love our neighbours as ourselves. If we love our neigh-

bours as ourselves, we will not steal from them, lie against them, treat them unkindly or even kill them. A very strong love existed between David and Jonathan and this relationship survived family feud. It was a very good example of a friend loving more than a brother. King Solomon also was an example of how its possible to love God the right way but to have a dysfunctional relationship to others. Solomon loved God but had the wrong relationship with women. These women finally led him astray. Jesus made several remarks about loving others. He made it clear that its the evidence for others to know we are his disciples. The last prayer Jesus made was for his disciples and subsequently us to love one another. **(John13:33-35, John 15:12-17, John17:20-23).**

Apostle Paul believes that this is the fulfilment of the law and Apostle James believes that anyone who loves his brother is doing right. **Apostle John sums it up that if you don't love brother, you are a liar and that if you deny your brother something they need, then you cannot say you love God or know him. (Rom 13:10, James2:8, 1 John2:10, 1 John3:10, 17, 1 John 4:10).**

### Loving Awkward People

Love is a beautiful thing and we know from previous paragraph that God loves us, commands us to love him and others. The difficult thing is loving awkward people. Those who are difficult to love and make it even more difficult to be loved.

Everybody has these awkward people in their lives and we may be considered awkward by someone else. The Bible is littered with examples: Cain and Abel, Joseph and his brothers, Saul and David, Jesus and the Jews..etc.

David suffered greatly in the hands of Saul. The problem started when God rejected Saul as king and commanded Samuel to anoint David as king in his stead. Fate brought them together and they lived under

the same room for a while until the an evil spirit entered into Saul and drove him to want to pin David to the wall. Years after, Saul kept chasing David and wanted to kill him but the lord protected him. Twice, David had the opportunity to kill Saul but he did not because he was aware of the lords position on causing harm to an anointed. Eventually Saul was killed on the battle field and David became king. 13 years of violent pursuit and yet David kept his honour as a child of God. This served him all the days of his life.

Jesus came to save the world and they flatly refused him. They persecuted him and eventually killed him. He continued to love them irrespective and even commanded us to love those who persecute us and despitefully use us. **When Jesus was dying on the cross, he was praying for those killing him. We are commanded to love God and to love others irrespective of who they are to**

**us. (1sam16,17,18,19,23,24,26. 1 chr16:22, Ps105:15. Mat 5:43-44, Luke 6:34-36, John1:10-11).**  
**Love and Faith**

The Bible makes it clear in the new testament that without faith, its impossible to please God. It also enumerates how all that have achieved great things did so by faith. (Heb 11). So we are in agreement that faith is very important in relating to God and in accessing all that he has provided. The book of Corinthians expatiated what Gods love does and then ends by stating that Love is how you conquer all, love is how you access all, love is how you rise above all.

**( 1 Corinthians 13:13 ).** God bless.

### 2 Peter 1:5-10

**5** But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, **6** to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, **7** to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness

love. **8** For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

**10** Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; God bless...

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