

the love of God...

"I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?" Malachi 1:2

Verses to study...

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall **love** the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 7:9 "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who **love** Him and keep His commandments.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may **love** the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days.

1 John 4:19 We **love** Him because He first **loved** us.

John 3:16-17 For God so **loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us **love** one another, for **love** is of God; and everyone who **loves** is born of God and knows God. He who **does not love** does not know God, for **God is love**. In this the **love** of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is **love**, **not that we loved God**, **but that He loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so **loved** us, we also ought to **love** one another.

Ephesians 2:4-9 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great **love** with which He **loved** us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For **by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God**, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 5:7-8 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own **love** toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 3:16 By this we know **love**, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

John 15:13-14 Greater **love** has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I [Jesus] command you.

Titus 3:3-7 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the **love** of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Romans 8:38-39 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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the **love** of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- ² Thessalonians 2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has **loved** us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of **love** and of a sound mind.
- 1 John 4:12-16 No one has seen God at any time. If we **love** one another, God abides in us, and His **love** has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the **love** that God has for us. **God is love**, and he who abides in **love** abides in God, and God in him.
- 1 Peter 1:7-9 ...Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you **love**. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

John 15:9-10 "As the Father **loved** Me [Jesus], I also have **loved** you; abide in My **love**. If you keep My [Jesus] commandments, you will abide in My **love**, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His **love**.

John 16:27 for the Father Himself **loves** you, because you have **loved** Me [Jesus], and have believed that I came forth from God.

John 14:15 "If you **love** Me [Jesus], keep My [Jesus] commandments.

- 1 John 5:2-3 By this we know that we **love** the children of God, when we **love** God and keep His commandments. For this is the **love** of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
- John 13:34-35 *Jesus said...* A new commandment I [Jesus] give to you, that you **love** one another; as I have **loved** you, that you also **love** one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love** for one another."
- ² John 5-6 *The apostle John said...* And now I plead with you...not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we **love one another**. This is **love**, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.
- 1 John 2:15 Do not **love** the world or the things in the world. If anyone **loves** the world, the **love** of the Father is not in him.
- 1 Timothy 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, **love**, patience, gentleness.

Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

Joel 2:12-13 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.

Psalm 103:8-13 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him.

Quoting John Piper "The Creator of the universe is infinitely worthy of respect and admiration and loyalty. Let us not trifle with God or trivialize His love. We will never stand in awe of being loved by God until we reckon with the seriousness of our sin and the justice of His wrath against us."

Beloved, the Gospel is the good news of salvation for those who do not deserve it and have done nothing to earn it. Our salvation is all the work of God. He is the forgiver, He is our sacrifice, He is the justifier. He is the reconciler, the redeemer, the restorer. It is freely given to those who will believe God. It's about believing God is who He says He is and that He will do what He said He will do. It is about believing that God took on flesh and became a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ (John 1:1,14). Jesus taught us the truth about God and lived a perfectly righteous and sinless life (John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus then died on the cross in our place, taking the punishment [for our sins] that we deserve (Romans 5:8). Jesus rose from the dead to prove His victory over sin, death, and hell (Colossians 2:15; 1 Corinthians 15). Because of all of this, we can have our sins forgiven and be promised an eternal home in Heaven - if we place our faith in Jesus Christ and believe that He died in our place and rose from the dead (Romans 10:9-10). We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. Ephesians 2:8 declares, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." (www.gotquestions.org)

When you have come to the end of yourself, then you will believe God....When you have come to that end, you can speak to Him in prayer something like this...

Father, I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done evil in Your sight. I know that my sins have separated me from You. I have come to see the great love that You have for me and I am truly sorry and repent for my sins and I ask for the forgiveness that is found in the Cross of Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead and is alive with You now at Your right hand. I wish to turn from my past sinful life and turn to You. I seek to submit to Jesus Christ as Lord, Savior and my only hope. Father, give me Your Holy Spirit so that I may know the truth and seek to do Your will. In Jesus' Holy Name I pray. Amen.

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