

# THE GOD OF LOVE



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## Immeasurable Love

Everyone of us, who is a believer in Christ, has come to some understanding of the love of God. The wonderful truth in the words of Jesus in John 3:16 has impacted every true believer...

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

*“I asked Jesus, “How much do you love me?” and Jesus said, “This much” and he stretched out his arms and died.” anon*



However, none of us can fully grasp the depth and dimension of His love. It is beyond measure. Love is not just an aspect of God's nature but every aspect comes from, and is express through, His love. ***God is love!***

*“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love”*  
*1 John 4:8.*

Every experience in life, whether good or bad, becomes a means by which His love is revealed (Romans 8:28-29). Little by little, as we hunger and thirst to know Him more, the Holy Spirit opens our hearts to the wonders of His heart of love. This was Paul's prayer for “the faithful in Christ Jesus”...

*“...And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”*  
*Ephesians 3:16-21.*

# 4 Dimensional Love

## HOW WIDE



God's love is all encompassing and all inclusive. It covers the whole world and every person in it.

*“How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings” Psalm 36:7.*

## HOW LONG

His love is an everlasting love. It never fails and covers every generation from the beginning of time and through all eternity.

*“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations” Psalm 100:5.*

## HOW HIGH

His love reaches to the Heavens bringing us into all the wonder and glory that is His.

*“Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies” Psalm 36:5.*



## HOW DEEP

His love comes from the very depth of His heart, reaching down to the depth of ours which comes out of the deep experiences in our life.

*“For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths...” Psalm 86:13. “Deep calls to deep...” Psalm 42:7.*

“ The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell  
It goes beyond the highest star  
And reaches to the lowest hell  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care  
God gave His Son to win  
His erring child He reconciled  
And pardoned from his sin

Could we with ink the ocean fill  
And were the skies of parchment made  
Were every stalk on earth a quill  
And every man a scribe by trade  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole  
Though stretched from sky to sky

O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure  
The saints and angels' song

(Songwriter: Benton Vespew Ellis)

## Amazing Love

**“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” 1 John 3:1.**

Love, in its very essence, must have an object. It cannot exist on its own. Like a parent’s great love for a child, God’s great love has been “lavished”, “poured out” upon the believer in Christ! Each one of us is the unique focus of His amazing love.

***“...God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” Romans 5:5.***

The wonder of being a greatly loved child of God is a continual growing experience. David expresses to the Lord his heart’s great desire...

***“Show me the wonders of your great love” Psalm 17:6-12.***

### Love Desires a Counterpart

Also in its very essence, love desires one who loves in return. This is very much the heart of God and has been down through the centuries as seen in the Old and New Testaments.

***“...Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind”***

***Matthew 22:37 (Deuteronomy 6:4-6).***



In Psalm 17:4, David beautifully expresses his heart of love for the Lord. Each of us, who are the children of God, also have this heart - desiring to live constantly in the Presence of the Lord, growing in our knowledge of Him and each day receiving revelation of what He is like.

***“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple” (KJV).***

### Love Desires to Bless

***“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name” Psalm 103:1 (KJV).***

Worship is the heart to heart expression to the Lord of our love.

***“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks” John 4:23.***

## New Creation Love

A miracle happened the moment we believed in the finished work of Christ on the Cross and in his Resurrection. The Lord Jesus took all our past in himself on the Cross. In God's economy that was "me" - my old self - dying (Romans 6:6) . We were then in Him in his Resurrection, rising as a whole New Creation. Our old life is gone and a new life has begun!

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" 2 Cor. 5:17.*

## Partakers of the Divine Nature

In our new birth in Christ we received the nature of our Father God - His wonderful nature of **LOVE**. This now is this central factor of our lives! We are now different. We are not like the world. Self is no longer the centre. The love of God within us now governs our whole life.

*"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" 2 Peter 1:3-4.*

## We are One

We are now a Family in Christ. Every believer is our brother or sister. In Jesus' final words to his disciples he gave them (and us today) a "new command"...

*"A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" John 13:34.*

Jesus' prayer just prior to going to the Cross is fulfilled by the Spirit of Love within us:

*" 'My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me' " John 17:20-21.*



## Practical Love

### \* Serve one another

*“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love” Galatians 5:13 (Matthew 20:25-28).*

### \* Encourage one another

*“...encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” 1 Thessalonians 5:11.*

### \* Minister to one another

*“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” Ephesians 4:15-16 (Colossians 3:14-17).*

## Love For A Lost World

God’s love for a dying, lost world continues to be a priority. The Lord Jesus fulfilled all that was necessary to see every person restored to relationship with the Father and the fulfilment of His original plan of “many sons”.

*“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings” Hebrews 2:10 (NKJV).*



## Empowered and Sent

When Jesus returned to Heaven he sent the promised Holy Spirit to indwell and empower all God’s New Creation children (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:8), enabling them to fulfill God’s magnificent goal of reaching the world with the Good News of salvation and restored relationship with the loving Father. Jesus commissioned us all...

*“...As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’”*

*John20:21-22.*