

The Bible

God's Love Letter to
Us

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'But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.' 1 John 4:8

God is love, it's His nature. And because it's His nature He's always expressing His love for us in different ways, especially through the Bible. Beyond being a book about prophecies and principles, the Bible acts as a place where we can learn about and experience God's love in the past, present and future. And the beauty of the Bible is that because the words are spirit and life, it is ever relevant to every aspect of our lives even today.

From Genesis to Revelation the Bible demonstrates God's love for His children, and all mankind. When we look at the Bible from this perspective, then it stops being just a history or legal document, but also a love letter from God to us.

As we go through this series, we pray that we will receive a revelation of the incredible heights and depths of God's love for us and that we also grow in our love for Him.



Day 1

Unconditional Love

'For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.' John 3:16-17

At the time Jesus paid the ultimate price for us, none of us reading this even existed here on earth. So the price He paid for you and I isn't because of anything we did for Him. He paid the price we can never repay because of His character of love.

'A new commandment I 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.'" John 13:34-35

'Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. These things I command you, that you love one another.' John 15:13,17

Love is so important to Jesus that He noted it as the true identifier of His disciples. Not going to church, knowing unlimited Bible verses or spending hours in prayer/worship, but in the demonstration of His love to others. The question we may then ask is, "What does God's love look like?"

Jesus demonstrated God's great love by choosing to lay down His life for people who didn't deserve it, but who He still chose to love unconditionally. In laying down His life, Jesus showed us how to live a selfless life, putting the needs of others before ours and taking responsibility for the welfare of others. A life of not imposing our own desires on others but finding out from the Father what His plans are for them and partnering with Him to bring it to pass. Jesus didn't die just for us to go to heaven. He died so we can demonstrate His character here on earth so that He will in effect be duplicated in the hearts and lives of many, that the world may experience His love through us. As we reflect on God's love today, let's ask for the opportunity to demonstrate it to those around us.

Prayer: Father, please give me the opportunity to demonstrate Your love to at least one person today so that through my actions they will know that You are real and You love them.



Day 2 Incomprehensible Love

“And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.” Ephesians 3:18-19

One of the things the enemy attacks is our understanding of God’s love for us, with our minds telling us at times that there’s something we have to Do to earn His love. But God has made it so clear to us that His love cannot be understood without the help of the Holy Spirit because He’s not a man and therefore does not love like man does.

“But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.” Matthew 5:44-45

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”” Galatians 5:14

Isn’t it interesting that Jesus Himself says that the way to act as true children of God is to act in love. The nature of mankind is that we should only love the people we categorise as good, but God’s love is poured out on all good and evil alike. He loves the ‘sinner’ as much as He loves the ‘righteous’. It’s based on this that He asks us to demonstrate His love to both those that are easy and difficult to love. He acknowledges that there are those who will be mean and spiteful to us, yet He still wants us to love them.

Acting in love isn’t about how we feel, but a conscious decision to demonstrate God’s goodness to others, regardless of how deserving we may think they are of that love. It will be impossible to do this without the Holy Spirit and as we allow the Him to mould us and shape us, we begin to demonstrate more of His character, which includes the capacity to love as God loves. It’s a journey and we won’t get there overnight, but it must be our earnest desire to love as our Father in heaven loves, because that is what makes us most like Him.

Prayer: Holy Spirit help me live a life of demonstrating Your character in increasing measures until I love fully like Jesus.

Day 3

The nature of love

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love...” Galatians 5:22

We have looked at two aspects of God’s love: the fact that it’s His nature and as such it may be difficult for us to comprehend how and why He can love all as He does. Second is that He wants us to demonstrate this love to others because as believers we carry His DNA in us. It’s the Holy Spirit in us that enables us to show God’s character (what we can also call fruit) and while we’re all on a journey, ideally we should all be intentional about allowing the Holy Spirit mould us so we can embody and demonstrate more of His character. What does this kind of love look like in practice?

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 NLT

“Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”Philippians 2:4

The Bible shares with us what the type of love we are to demonstrate looks like from God’s perspective. Unlike our natural inclination to love who/what makes us feel better, God’s love is about living beyond ourselves and looking out for the interest of others. When we look at love from God’s perspective, if we are honest with ourselves there may be one or several areas where we are lacking. And if we have matured in love to the extent that we aren’t lacking in any area, there are still various dimensions of love we can exhibit. A life of love is a lifelong journey of yielding to the Holy Spirit, dying to self and allowing Jesus to manifest Himself through us.

Walking in love is a daily affair that involves every aspect of our lives - as parents, children, spouses, employer/employee etc. - not just what we show our friends or those we believe deserve it. This is why even when for instance we don’t feel like being patient or we want to remind someone of the wrong they have done, the Holy Spirit nudges us to respond differently. And the more often we yield to these nudges, the easier it becomes to show love as Jesus would.

Prayer: Lord help my love life look like that of Jesus.



Day 4

Everlasting Love

'...Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.' Jeremiah 31:3

We're assured that because God's love for us is eternal He will welcome us back with open arms whenever we may stray from Him. But this doesn't mean He approves of everything we do all the time. As He welcomes us back, God convicts us through the Holy Spirit – meaning He lets us know when we are doing something wrong – but He never condemns us. His conviction is an important part of shaping us into being who He created us to be.

'...My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.' Hebrews 12:5-6

We wouldn't let a loved one keep going down a wrong path without bringing some form of correction, especially when we know that path is headed towards certain destruction. In fact, we would do everything possible to keep that person away from walking that path. The same way God knows that the final destination of sin is death (Rom 6:23) and because He loves us, He's willing to do whatever it takes to keep us from heading in that direction. Beyond not being bound by sin, God also wants to help us work out His eternal plan and purpose for each of us.

When we receive Jesus as Lord and saviour, we don't immediately vanish from earth and show up in heaven because there's work for us to do here on earth. The Holy Spirit is constantly prompting and nudging, correcting and encouraging us because God loves us too much to leave us in a state that is less than His best for us. Therefore we shouldn't feel bad when God corrects us – it's all from a foundation of love. His guidelines aren't so we live a boring, straitjacketed life, quite the opposite. Every advice and guidance God gives us is to help shape us not just to thrive, but to dominate in the areas we are in and create a platform to shine His light and point people to Jesus. His plan is always better than ours.

Prayer: Father I see that because of Your perspective You see beyond what I can see and You know who I need to be to fulfil Your plans and purpose. Help me to cooperate with Your process so I live the best life You have in mind for me.

Day 5

Generous Love

'If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!' Matthew 7:11

God loves to give generously because in Him lies all abundance and all sufficiency. No matter how much He gives He always has more than enough available because he is El Shaddai, the Almighty and All Sufficient One. When we understand of this aspect of God's love, it frees us from a scarcity mentality and from envy because no matter how much he's given us or others, there is still more than enough in Him for us and everyone else.

'Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us' Ephesians 3:20

No matter what our greatest expectation may be, God is able to not only match, but to exceed it beyond our wildest dreams. But there's a caveat: the abundance we receive isn't based on God's capacity, but on how much of Him we have permitted to be Lord over our lives. When we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, our desires begin to align with His desires and that creates room for Him to move freely in us.

'Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.' Matthew 6:8

'And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.' Philippians 4:19

There may be times we experience some frustration with God when He seems to be more generous with others than with us. But in those times our first thought ideally shouldn't be, "why isn't He answering?" but "what is God saying about what I want Him to do/give?" It may be that the time for us to receive what we're asking for isn't ripe based on His timing. It may also be that there's some maturing He's doing in us to prepare us for what we're asking for. There are also many times God does far more for us than we can comprehend because we are limited to acknowledging only the things we can see with our natural eyes. We can rest in this knowledge: no one can out-give God.

Prayer: Thank You Lord for taking care of all my needs, even the ones I don't know I have yet.



Day 6

Love & Service

'If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.' John 13:14-15

An important part of love is service, and Jesus gave us a great example of how to act in love by serving others. As we serve others it helps us demonstrate God's love to others and helps us think beyond ourselves so we function more like Christ. In a world where everyone increasingly focuses on themselves alone, as believers we have an opportunity to stand out through service, with the mindset of showcasing Jesus.

'Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.' Galatians 6:2

'I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.' Proverbs 8:12

Everywhere we see a challenge is an opportunity for us to serve by providing solutions and create a platform to bring in the superior wisdom of God. This means that as we genuinely seek to solve problems, we can access the wisdom, innovation and creativity that only the Holy Spirit can provide. As we do so, we are able to point people who may not necessarily be inclined to go to Church to see Jesus in action. It doesn't have to be a major project because the critical thing is the heart with which we provide this service.

Are there people around us who are hungry, discouraged, homeless? Let's ask God for an opportunity to showcase His love through service – we will be amazed at what He can do once we are faithful in service.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to see where I can show Your love through service to others. I ask for Your grace, wisdom and creativity so it will be clear to all that it is You at work through me.



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