

GOD IS LOVE



STUDIES IN THE HEALING WORD
AND WILL OF GOD SERIES
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God Is Love

Studies in the Healing Word and Will of God

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Why this eBooklet is free:

We are so glad that you chose to download this eBooklet as our gift to you. Jesus taught us in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and we aspire to follow our Lord's teaching. The Apostle Paul also understood this concept, "What is my reward then {for preaching and giving the gospel away freely}? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge" (I Corinthians 9:18). Paul came to realize that to serve the Word *without charge* was both a blessing to those who received the Word and to himself personally because he understood that God Himself is the reward, "I *am* thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward" (Genesis 15:1, and see Hebrews 11:6). When you have God in your life as your *exceeding great reward*, then being *with God* you will have everything you need to begin enjoying the more than abundant life. Our prayer for you is that you come to know experientially that "with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

Enjoy, and God Bless You!

Introduction:

This Bible study highlights an aspect of God – His LOVE – because God is Love. God has shared this attribute of Himself with His children, and through His love we may learn to become genuine partakers of His divine nature.

The Scripture used throughout this study is quoted from the King James Version unless otherwise noted. Any explanatory insertions by the author in any of the Scripture verses are enclosed in {braces}.

God Is Love

In this Bible study, we will highlight some of the aspects of God being LOVE – because this is a part of His very nature, makeup, and eminence as I John 4:16 reveals, “God is love.”

God not only is love, but He also desires to share this lovely attribute of Himself with us, His children, in order that we may become “partakers of the divine nature” (II Peter 1:4), and a part of His *divine nature* is His *divine* love. In a world where confusion and strife, worry and fear, hate and terror are out of control, God has given His children a part of His very *nature* to help relieve us from these assaults emanating from the darkness of the storms of this life as we read in Isaiah 25:4, “For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones *is* as a storm *against* the wall {i.e., against your life, hopes, and dreams}.”

I John 4:8:

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

God is love! What an awesome privilege it is for us to have access to partake of God’s nature of *love*. This verse is NOT literally referring to people who do not *love* and therefore do NOT know God, but rather the verse means the opposite. The phrase, *He that loveth not knoweth not God*, contains a double negative to

accentuate the positive reality that believers not only can *love* with God's *love*, but they also may come to personally know God Who is *love*.

Ephesians 5:1-2a:

-1: BE ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

-2a: And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us. . .

We are encouraged to *walk in love*, as Christ has *loved us*. Jesus Christ is the Son of God and he walked in *love* in his daily life, he said "I loved the father" (John 14:31), and, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love" (John 15:9). We are told in Ephesians to be *followers of God* as His *dear children* in the same way that Jesus Christ walked endeared to his heavenly Father in *love*.

Now let us notice in Ephesians 5:1 the word *therefore*, because its usage has a specific purpose in the Bible that will help us to become followers of God. The word *therefore* always directs the reader back to view the grounds on which *therefore* is written, it compels the question, Why is the *therefore* there-for? In order for us to fully understand the word *therefore* and the purpose of the context in which it is set, we will need to go back at least two verses to appreciate its placement in the context of the Word.

Ephesians 4:31-32 and 5:1-2a:

-31: Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice {spitefulness with ill-willed intentions to do harm}:

-32: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

-1: BE ye therefore {THEREFORE} followers of God, as dear children;

-2a: And walk in love. . .

By putting away ill thoughts and words and by being kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving one another is how we are to be followers of God as His dear children. God forgives us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who had given his life for you and for me because he loved you and me.

Therefore, in order for believers to *walk in love*, as *Christ also hath loved*, we will endeavor to be *kind*, *tenderhearted*, and *forgiving* as these will demonstrate to our

inner selves the true and powerful qualities of love. Then the *walk of love* is nurtured into a living reality, because then we will be walking with God's *nature* as we, individually commence partaking of His *divine nature*.

I John 4:16:

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

We may understand the omnipotent God through His *love*, for we are currently dwelling in Him and as an extra bonus (so-to-speak), He is also dwelling within by way of His *love* in us (I John 4:16), and therefore, we can begin enjoying some of the spiritual qualities of God's true attributes.

II Thessalonians 3:5:

And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ {to return and take us home to heaven}.

God is Love (I John 4:8), and we are inspired to "walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us" (Ephesians 5:2).

God is Light (I John 1:5), and we are encouraged to walk as the children of light (Ephesians 5:8).

God is Spirit (John 4:24), and we are implored to walk in the spirit (Galatians 5:16).

This is a threefold, balanced walk with the Lord God, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10).

Jesus taught:

John 13:34-35:

-34: A new commandment I {Jesus} give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

-35: By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

When we walk in love, we become partakers of God's divine nature; as well, we will effortlessly demonstrate God's love for others, and our very lives will showcase the qualities of true discipleship that Jesus encouraged by his examples of walking in love.

God's love softens the most hardhearted hearts and warms the soul.

Love lifts up the downtrodden and comforts the bereaved.

Love encourages those who have lost hope.

Love gives men and women the joy of inspiring men and women to become more Christ-like disciples.

I Corinthians defines many qualities of the spiritual love we have been given to walk with our heavenly Father, and as well defines what His love in us is not. God's love in us is characterized as "the more excellent way" in Corinthians 12:31.

I Corinthians 13:4-8a (The Amplified Bible):*

-4: Love endures long and is patient *and* kind; love never is envious *nor* boils over with jealousy, is not boastful *or* vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

-5: It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) *and* does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights *or* its own way, *for* it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy *or* resentful; it takes no account of evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

-6: It does not rejoice at injustice *and* unrighteousness, but rejoices when right *and* truth prevail.

-7: Love bears up under anything *and* everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].

-8a: Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. . .

May God bless your endeavors to walk in His love, and may you enjoy a lovely day!

"God Bless You!"

Benediction:

John 3:16:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

“Neither a lofty degree of intelligence nor imagination nor both together go to the making of genius. Love, love, love, that is the soul of genius.” Mozart

“Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within the reach of every hand.” Mother Teresa

“Love is like a river, peaceful and deep, love is like a secret no one can keep.” Darlene Lemos

“To love is to receive a glimpse of heaven.” Karen Sunde

“John 3:16 contains the most preeminent love story ever told:

For God – the supreme Creator and our heavenly Father.

So loved the world – the loveliest act of a commitment ever made.

That He gave – the ultimate present.

His only begotten Son – the most perfect being.

That whosoever believeth in him – the greatest offering from the heart.

Should not perish – the endless promise.

But have everlasting life – this is YOUR eternal reward!” LMJ

* Scripture taken from THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE.

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God Bless You!

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