



## Joy in God's Love

Opening Devotion

*We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19).*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote the famous words, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways ... " Yet when God looked at us, how many ways could He have counted? He saw our sins *red as crimson* (Isaiah 1:18b). And He loved us anyway!

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). When He looks at us now – through the cross of Jesus – God sees us as the people He designed us to be: forgiven, loving, serving people. Though we sin daily, God's love and forgiveness are always available to us. His love never fails, and He never withholds forgiveness from the repentant sinner. In Him we have comfort and joy.

**Prayer:** Thank You, Lord, for Your unconditional love. We could not have loved You first, and we could not have brought ourselves to You. Help us to respond to the love You have given us by sharing it with those whose lives touch ours. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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