



The Greatest Love

Devotion

For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies (Psalm 108:4 NIV).

Considering God

God is eternal and never changes. Neither does His love. Before the beginning of time, the holy God of all Creation conceived, undertook, and executed a radical plan to demonstrate the unimaginable scope of His love for us and for His entire creation.

Consider the veracity, changelessness, and faithfulness of the one, eternal, and true God, Who, with full deliberation upon any price, declared to all sinners: *Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him* (Psalm 2:11-12 NIV).

And Considering Love

Love is because God is; it is correctly a bona fide God-originated concept that describes His character. Our Creator loved us first. Love permeates and penetrates, pursues and woos, reaches and draws, covers and binds, protects and exposes, constrains and empowers, frees and loosens. God's love is unlimited and full of influence in all areas of life.

Consider the power in both loving and in being guided in love by God Himself, of being **in** love with the One Who has made believers this promise: *"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation"* (Psalm 91:14-16 NIV).

Considering Humanity

After creation and before the rebellion, humans were able to know God and experience the supremacy of pure love. But the self-centered human condition rendered us senseless to the things of God. We began the downward spiral that represents the wages of our personal and collective, active and passive sin. There is nothing within either the lifeless spirit of humanity or within a fallen world that might conceive – or **desire** to conceive – such an overarching attribute as lavish, saving love. We do not independently recognize our personal and collective impotence nor are we of a mind to do so. Consequently, in our blindness we are eternally liable.

Consider this hopelessness, and with this, consider that humanity was on God's mind and in His heart when He inspired this Scripture: *Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity* (Psalm 51:7-9 NIV).

Considering Jesus, The Greatest Love

Jesus Christ is His Father's beloved and ours. With full deliberation of the cost, Christ willingly reduced Himself to unite with our sinful selves, and He came into identity with His created to hinge us to God once again. Jesus became for all people the only sacrifice ever acceptable to the true God. His life has become our life. Once and for all time, our sinless Savior took upon Himself the totality of human guilt and shame. He has healed and forgiven us, instructed and led us to Himself. Jesus Christ is the most vital part of this uniquely abundant and mysterious love of God. The cross of Jesus Christ is both the fulfillment of God's far-reaching plan and the hope and cause of any relationship we might ever have with God. His death, then, is our death.

Consider the life and death of the Lord Jesus, about Whom it is prophesied: *Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD. They will proclaim his righteousness, to a people yet unborn – for he has done it!* (Psalm 22:30-31 NIV)

And Considering The Love That Matters More Than Any Other

God never changes. So this being our anchor, we are assured that God loves us and that we are handpicked for His great and selfless love. We understand and embrace this, though we may not now fully fathom the scope of it. We are captured by it and come into it by the Spirit's leading. The cross of Christ marks this place in history; it is the location of the only means by which we know God and become acceptable to the Father – **this** divine washing, cleansing, eternally-forgiving work of Jesus Christ, **this** very specific testimony marks forever our own place at Calvary. We may safely judge our lives with a blameless judgement that will be forever based upon **this** righteous work. We can here and now experience God in a kindly relationship. We can more and more genuinely experience joys and pains – both ours and others – when we live in the knowledge that we are loved by **this** God. We may confidently expect to grow and to progress in our usefulness to God by **this** means. We may grasp our inheritance and be kissed by it. Without question, **this** is the greatest love of all.

Consider the joy set before you as you take up your cross and, by the Spirit, follow Jesus toward eternal peace, because He gives us this assurance: *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous* (Psalm 19:7-9 NIV).

Our Prayer

Lord God, today we think more about You – Your good deeds and gracious acts toward us – and we are personally encouraged in our lives and acts. We give thanks to You. We boldly declare that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. He is The Lord's Christ and ours. We acknowledge Him as the true lover of our souls. We are bold to ask that You joyfully engage our hearts in loving, caring service toward others and in personal gratitude for the greatest love of all. Amen.

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