

**The Love
of
God**

Fredrick G. Omondi

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

The four letter word love, is a very powerful thing in life and which many people have taken for granted, others have not fully understood what it is, yet others have not come to the realization of the fact that there is a distinction between the love of God and the love of man and that the former is the true love which is qualitative and superior and the latter is inferior and superficial in nature.

Because of the above facts, love generally has been abused. In this book you are going to know more about the subject matter as you read through the Scriptures and come to understand better which is which, the love of God and its importance, power and characteristics among other issues touching on love. I do hope you are going to have an enlightened reading which you will come to appreciate.

In this book and in all my other books, I have endeavoured to restrict myself in King James version of the Holy Bible in quotations and the subsequent texts, as it is the best ever translation in English and in case you are uncomfortable with of

don't despair, as all is well and not lost. Whenever you find I have given a scripture quotation, just go to your Bible (whatever version it is) and read and you will be in the same page with me in your reading.

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Chapter 1

The Love of God

This is the true love which is good all through and is the highest level or degree of love and which many people don't have.

But we are going to find out why it is so. This is an unconditional, a committed love, a self-less love. The love of God in Greek is called Agape. We also have another love which in Greek is called Eros. This love is in contrast to Agape love and is inferior and comes from man. This love is a selfish love, a romantic or sexual love which comes from the intense desire/appetite of the flesh (body) of a male or a female towards the other. It can be said that it is not a serious love and can be said to be a superfluous love. Then we have yet another love called in Greek Philos. This also is man's love and is a high esteem love in the context of Christianity and may be equated to/is similar to Agape love. Coming back to the love of God, that is Agape love, we find just as I said earlier in my introduction of this book, the following information:

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ,

Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is
named,

That he would grant you, according to the riches of
his glory, to be strengthened with might by his
Spirit in the inner man;

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that
ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

May be able to comprehend with all saints what is
the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know **the love of Christ, which passeth
knowledge**, that ye might be filled with all the
fullness of God.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding
abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us,

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus
throughout all ages, world without end. A'-men.

Ephesians 3:14-21

That is an epistle which apostle Paul wrote to the
church at Ephesus touching on the love of Jesus

Christ which is the love of God and which passes man's knowledge as it is so wide and deep.

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and **the God of love and peace** shall be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Apostle Paul in closing his second epistle to the church at Corinth had said the above. We get from the above message that God, is a God of love and peace. God is not only the origin of true love but also peace, as he is the Prince of Peace.

(1 John 4; 7-8, Isaiah 9; 6)

Beloved, let us love one another: **for love is of God;** and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

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

1 John 4:7-8

God's love is totally distinct from any other love.

JESUS went unto the Mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at

the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?

She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

John 8:1-11

Now that is truly genuine love from the Son of God.

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Psalms 86:15

That is God being described as one full of compassion, as well as many other good attributes.

For **the Lord** will not cast off for ever:

But though he cause grief, **yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.**

For he doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.

Lamentations 3:31-33

Because the Lord God loves us, he will not leave us completely in our state, although he may allow us to go through a fault on our part and he may have no option for us but that experience just for a while. You can further read the following Scriptures on that point - Romans 8:28 and Hebrews 12:3-11

WHEN Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Ba'-a-lim, and burned incense to graven images.

I taught E'-phra-im also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them.

I drew them with cords of a man, **with bonds of love:** and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.

Hosea 11:1-4

Still we see God's love to the Israelites who were unfaithful to him. God loves you and me just as he loved the Israelites and still do.

Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days old.

Micah 7:18-20

Because of God's love, he will do the above to the seeds of Abraham (Galatians 3:6-29, Colossians 1:21-23, Hebrews 10:19-25, James 5:7-11).

O GIVE thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks to the Lord of Lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever

The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever:

The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him that smote Egypt in their first-born: for his mercy endureth for ever

And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever:

With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his
mercy endureth for ever:

And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for
his mercy endureth for ever:

But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea:
for his mercy endureth for ever

To him which led his people through the
wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever.

To him which smote great kings: for his mercy
endureth for ever.

And slew famous kings: for his mercy endureth for
ever:

Sihon king of the Am'-o-rites: for his mercy
endureth for ever:

And Og king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for
ever:

And gave their land for a heritage: for his mercy
endureth for ever:

Even a heritage unto Israel his servant: for his
mercy endureth for ever.

Who remembered us in our low estate: for his
mercy endureth for ever:

And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 136

Because of God's love, he is so merciful to us and looks at us with a human face because truly he cares for us and does great and wondrous works for us and will not leave us nor forsake us as long as we remain obedient to him and reciprocate our love to him. (Jeremiah 29-10-11, Joshua 1:5, 7, 1 John 4:19)

You can see for yourself that the psalmist has dedicated the whole chapter of Psalm 136 to express the mercy of God which is great to all beings and that in each verse he stresses the fact that God's mercy is endless as it endures for ever and goes on to say what God has done because of his mercy and continue to do.

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say;

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us:

Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us:

Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul:

Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.

Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our souls is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124

THE word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying,
Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.

For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.

For thus saith the LORD; we have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

Alas! for that day is great, so that non is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him:

But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.

For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee: but I will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

For thus saith the LORD, Thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is grievous.

There is none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines.

All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased, Why criest thou for thine affliction? Thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee.

Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey.

For I will restore health unto Thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof.

And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

Their children also shall be as afore time, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them.

And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and

I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the LORD.

And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked.

The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it.

AT the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, **Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love:** therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.

Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with

thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.

Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Sa-mar'-i-a: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things. For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount E'-phra-im shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God.

For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnants of Israel.

Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.

They shall come with weeping and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of the waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and E'-phra-im is my first-born.

Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.

And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 30:1-31:14

The Israelites sinned greatly before the Lord God their God and God allowed them to be taken captive by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon,

because he had spoken to them severally through his prophets that they turn away from their evil ways but they refused to listen. He told them through prophet Jeremiah that they would serve the king of Babylon for seventy years. (Jeremiah 25:1-11). But despite all their wickedness, God still loved them and did promise to return them out of captivity and to restore them back to their land. In the prophecy given by the prophet, God is going to save them too, during the tribulation period. You can also read the book of Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy 30:1-3).

Now look at this scripture on God's love to his people Israel by the prophet Hosea.

And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in

judgement, and **in loving - kindness, and in mercies.**

I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.

Hosea 2:18-20

Look further at these two scriptures why God is praised.

I will mention the loving-kindness of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness, toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his loving - kindnesses.

Isaiah 63:7

O GOD, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;
To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

**Because thy loving- kindness is better than life,
my lips shall praise thee.**

Psalm 63:1-3

The psalmist is overwhelmed with God's love and had but to seek God and praise him for his loving - kindness which is so much.

God because of his love and mercy toward us, he is our deliver in every situation. But we must choose to be on God's side, siding with him. (verses 1 and 2). Read also the epistle to the Roman church (Romans 8:28-39).

We must befriend Jesus by our true repentance and faith in him to save and deliver us throughout life, if not, we are mince-meat to our enemies and life situations.

God is always looking for the lost so as to save them. Let us look at the following scriptures.

NOW the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.

And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

And the woman said to the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden.

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Genesis 3:1-10

In the above scripture after the fall of man we see God's first attempt to look for man so as to save him. That, was God's love. A holy God going to look for a sinful man. Truly God cares so much for man and will make all efforts in trying to get him back to himself. Unfortunately for man, he remained adamant and unrepentant. God was expecting just repentance from man for him to restore man back to himself.

When God called Adam, it is not that he knew not where both Adam and Eve were, for he is both omniscient and omnipresent. On that bit, that serpent did not disclose to the woman fully for he wanted to spoil for man on earth after he had spoiled for himself in heaven and was cast down to the earth.

There are other examples but I will give more now in the New Testament as follows:

And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.

And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, they that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: **For I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Matthew 9:9-13

Just as God came looking for Adam and Eve who had sinned to get their repentance and to save them. The same was to Jesus his only begotten Son who came to the earth in order to save repentant sinners. The Pharisees were a sick lot (sinners) but were

hypocritical in their lives that is why probably Jesus spoke to them that way in verse 12. Jesus did not come to get sacrifices from men, no, but to show mercy on repentant sinners.

AND Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

And Behold, there was a man named Zac-che'-us, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zac-che'-us, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.

And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

And Zac-che'-us stood, and said unto the Lord;
Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the
poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man
by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

And **Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation
come to this house,** forasmuch as he also is a son
of Abraham.

**For the Son of man is come to seek and save that
which was lost.**

Luke 19:1-10

Surely God loves sinners although he hates sin. In
the above scriptures Jesus Christ was looking for
sinners to save them and he is still doing the same
today but through his disciples/followers as it
happened after his ascension back to heaven.

**And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip,
saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the
way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Ga'-
za, which is desert.**

And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of E-
thi-o'-pi-a, a eunuch of great authority under Can-
da'-ce queen of the E-thi-o'-pi-ans, who had the

charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Isa'-ah the prophet.

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Isa'-ah, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

In his humiliation his judgement was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth.

And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? Of himself or of some other man?

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

And he commanded the chariot to standstill: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8:26-39

God is busy looking for souls to bring to them his salvation.

THERE was a certain man in Caesa-re'-a called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying to him Cornelius.

And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea-side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

Acts 10:1-8

If you continue to read further from verse 11 to 48 of that same chapter you will find how Peter came and preached to Cornelius' household, his near friends and kinsmen and all were saved while Peter was still preaching to them as all received the Holy Spirit and they spoke in tongues and magnified God.

Chapter 2

Characteristics of Love

The love I have just talked of in the previous chapter has some characteristics some of which we are going to look at straight away.

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgement: because as he is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casteth out fear**: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

We love him, because he first loved us.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

1 John 4:17-20

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth;
Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all
things, endureth all things.

Charity never faileth: but whether there be
prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be
tongues, they shall cease; whether there be
knowledge, it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophecy in part.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that
which is in part shall be done away.

1 Corinthians 13:4-10

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore
love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:10

True love is sacrificial, exemplary and is
demonstrated in action (1 John 3:18, Ephesians
5:25, Romans 5:6)

My little children, let us not **love** in word, neither in
tongue; but in **deed and in truth.**

1 John 3:18

Yes, true love must be both in deed and in truth. Action do speak louder than words. Apostle John was right and hit the nail right on the head. God is both love and truth and therefore you can not divorce one from the other.

Husbands, love your wives, even **as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**

Ephesians 5:25

Jesus Christ had true love of God and gave his life for the church, as evidenced in this other scripture.

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:6

We were all weak spiritually as sinners with only physical strength and because Christ loved us just as His Father, he proved truthful and died in our stead so that we could become strong spiritually as the sons and daughters of God by His Spirit and to be part of God's family as a church (the body of Christ) we who come to believe in him.

Apart from the true love of Christ let us look at a few other examples of the characteristics of true love.

Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem- Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

And the name of the man was E-lim'-e-lech, and the name of his wife Na-o'-mi, and the name of his two sons Mah'-lon and Chil'-i-on, Eph'-ra-thites of Beth-lehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

And E-lim'-e-lech Na-o'-mi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Or'-pah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

And Mah'-lon and Chil'-i-on, died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.

Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

And Na-o'mi said unto her two daughters-in-law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

And Na-o'mi said Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say, I have

hope, if I should have a husband also tonight, and should also bear sons;

Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? Would ye stay for them for having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.

And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Or'-pah kissed her mother-in-law; but Ruth clave unto her.

And she said, Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister-in-law. And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.

When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Beth-

lehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, is this Na-o'-mi?

And she said unto them, call me not Na-o'-mi, call me Mar'-a: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Na-o'-mi, seeing the LORD hath afflicted me?

So Na-o'-mi, returned, and Ruth the Mo'-ab-i-tess, her daughter-in-law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-thelem in the beginning of barley harvest.

Ruth 1

The above gives a classical example of the characteristic of a true love as portrayed by the woman Ruth. You can see clearly that both Ruth and Orpah lifted up their voice twice and wept on each occasion when they were asked by their mother-in-law Naomi to leave after their husbands had died but only Ruth's actions were genuine as she refused her mother-in-law's suggestion and

gave very powerful statements of her commitment to be with her come what may.

But on the other hand, you can see that Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and then left to go back to her people- quite a hypocritical move going by what both of them had done raising their voice and weeping. Ruth's love was true love as her mother-in-law had a double tragedy in losing both her husband and her two sons and was in a hopeless situation humanly speaking and needed someone close to her as a comfort and Ruth literally provided that voluntarily/ unconditionally.

Looking at the case of Orpah reminds me of the case of the two women harlots who brought their case to king Solomon and the king used his wisdom given by God to discern the truth and got to know the rightful owner of the disputed living child (1 Kings 3:16-27) likewise Orpah failed the test of time and left proving her selfish love to her mother-in-law Naomi.

Thank God for Ruth as she proved further her love to her mother-in-law by fending for her (in chapter

2) and she obeyed her mother-in-law (in chapter 3) and she received dividends (in chapter 4).

As for Naomi, her husband had somehow chosen the wrong course leaving Bethlehem which means the house of bread to and live in the land of Moab. The famine was but a temporary thing and was not permanent. Many of us Christians sometimes run here and there when faced with some problems instead of continuing to trust God to solve them as necessary. When you go out to the camp of the enemy you can be sure you will come from there empty handed as he is a thief and will have stolen all you have with you so stick to the camp of God in Christ Jesus and you will be wholesomely rich. Naomi came to realize much later that East or West home is the best. Read on Genesis 12:10-20 and 26:1-21. Our refuge / home is in God as Christians. Let us look at another example.

AND it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Phil-is'-tine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music.

And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but

thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Mer'-ab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Phil-is'-tin-es be upon him.

AND Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.

And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee ward very good:

For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Phil-is'tine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.

And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan showed him all things.

And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.

1 Samuel 18:1-9, 17, 19: 1-7

From all the above you can see the true love of Jonathan the son of king Saul to David the son of Jesse and who was a king in waiting (after being anointed by the prophet and priest of God Samuel as ordered by God) (1 Samuel 16:1-13). Jonathan made all efforts to preserve the life of David his friend.

Let us now look at the other side of David if he was truthful in his love to Jonathan his friend.

And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

(Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher)

The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places:
how are the mighty fallen!

Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of As'-ke-lon; lest the daughters of the Phil-is'-tines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

Ye mountains of Gil-bo'-a let there be no dew,
neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for these the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as thou he had not been anointed with oil.

From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were shifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights; who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!

O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places.

I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

2 Samuel 1:17-27

After the death of Saul and his son Jonathan David mourned of their death as described by his words in the above scripture and went on further to show his love to Jonathan by what he did to the son of Jonathan who was called by name Mephibosheth and who was lame (2 Samuel 9:1-13). Let us look at yet another example as follows.

But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

For I have no man like minded, who will naturally care for your state.

For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Ep-aphro-di'-tus, my brother, and companion in labor, and fellow soldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness;
and hold such in reputation:

Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

Philippians 2:19-30

In the above epistle you can see apostle Paul commending the love of Timothy and Epaphroditus to the church at Philippi, how they had the true and selfless love for the saints and the work of God of spreading the gospel of Christ, to the point of death (on the case of Epaphroditus) How I wish all Christians practiced the same love both to the church of Christ and to the world at large! It would make a lot of difference. Let us look further at the life of Apostle Paul in ministry work too.

BRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Romans 10:1

Apostle Paul's love to his brethren, a genuine love.

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partakers thereof with you.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

The apostle was doing all that out of God's love.

And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptol-e-ma'-is, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day.

And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Cae-sa-re'-a: and we

entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judea a certain prophet, named Ag'-a-bus.

And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Then Paul answered, What means ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 21:7-13

In the first two scriptures of Romans 10:1 and 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 you can see the true concern of apostle Paul to the people there because of his true love for them and in the above scripture you can

see the selfless love of the same apostle for the work of ministry and which he was ready to die for if necessary.

One would think the apostle was somehow related to Ruth the Moabite woman, though that is not the case, only that both stuck to their conviction/decision and no amount of persuasion or pressure could make them bow down. In both cases, they had worthy cause and were ready to go the extra mile in their pursuits. I do believe that if you and me could live that way for God we would surely be best candidates for entry into rapture of the Church of Christ and into heaven (Matthew 5: 17, Romans 13:8-10, 1 John 4:16-17)

Chapter 3

The Importance of love

Love is something that is very important in life and now in this chapter, we are going to see just how important it is to us.

THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but **the greatest of these is charity.**

1 Corinthians 13:13

FOLLOW after charity, and desire spiritual gifts,
but rather that ye may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a
stalled ox and hatred therewith.

Proverbs 15:17

**Owe no man any thing, but to love one another;
for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.**

For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:8-10

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but **faith which worketh in love.**

Galatians 5:6

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;
That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that **ye being rooted and grounded in love,**
May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and the length, and depth, and height;
And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.**

Ephesians 3:14-19

Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. A'-men.

Ephesians 6:24

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:22

Please not that love is the fruit of the Spirit and it is the first out of the nine in listing (that goes well and do corroborate its importance) as recorded in the first epistle of apostle Paul to the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 13:13) where faith, hope and charity is mentioned but the latter is the greatest of them all, that is, charity.

He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and **he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**

John 14:21

Love is such a strong feeling one has towards another such that one finds it cannot just be brushed aside. It makes one put the other in high esteem and

one can do almost any thing to win the other to him or her. I am going now to lead you to a scripture which also underscores the above fact.

THEN Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east.

And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of the well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth.

And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place.

And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? and they said, Of Har'-an are we.

And he said unto them, know ye Laban son of Nahor? And they said, We know him.

And he said unto them, Is he well?

And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep.

And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them.

And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep.

And while he yet spake with them, Rachel come with her father's sheep: for she kept them.

And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.

And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's brother, and that he was Rebecca's son; and she ran and told her father.

And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought

him to his house. And he told Laban all these things.

And Laban said to him, surely thou art my bone and my flesh.

And he abode with him the space of a month.

And Laban said unto Jacob, because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? Tell me, what shall thy wages be?

And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

Leah was tender-eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well-favored.

And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.

And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.

And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast.

And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her.

And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for a handmaid.

And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? Did not I serve with thee for Rachel? Wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?

And Laban said, it must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the first-born.

Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bil'-hah his handmaid to be her maid.

And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

Genesis 29:1-30

Now from the above account you can see that Love is so important that one can sacrifice to work for fourteen good years because of the same. Please note that Jacob on his own volition accepted to work for his uncle Laban for seven good years to have Rachel his daughter as a wife. He must have realized the importance of love, otherwise he would have told his uncle he will work for him for a whole year to be given Rachel to be his wife. Now coming to the years Jacob chose to work I don't know why he chose seven!

But I have this recollection, the number seven stands for complete, perfect. That could as well, have been the reason for Jacob's decision. Fortunately, or unfortunately for him, he ended serving his uncle for fourteen instead of seven years. Jacob complained to Laban for beguiling him by giving him Leah instead of Rachel to take as wife, but Jacob forgot that he beguiled his brother Esau twice (Genesis 27:30-36). The fact that Laban did not tell Jacob the issue of marriage law all the seven years shows it was intentional on his part to

teach Jacob a lesson to be living a faithful life as unfaithfulness does not pay. Jacob must have forgotten the golden rule which now he was the recipient (Matthew 7:12).

Chapter 4

The power of Love

Love in itself is equally a powerful thing indeed as we are going to see from the scriptures.

For **the love of Christ constraineth us**; because we judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the Scripture to say that love constrains Christians it means love is powerful as it forced Christians to live in a particular way pleasing to their Lord Jesus Christ.

Hatred stirreth up strifes: but **love covereth all sins**.

Proverbs 10:12

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

And above all things **have fervent charity among yourselves**: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:7-8

For the above Scripture to put emphasis on charity among Christians above all things and that by charity the multitude of sins shall be covered it follows therefore that charity is powerful and is a force one need to reckon with.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor power, no things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39

Looking at the above Scripture we find Apostle Paul addressing the church in Rome that the love of God which is in Christ Jesus is so powerful and mighty that nothing, virtually nothing can separate a Christian from that love. The apostle even went further and listed many hardships and situations and creatures and power and authorities and that are or will be, that all that cannot separate one from God's love. He went further and said that he is saying so because he as an individual in the Christian walk has been persuaded thus. God's love must be very powerful indeed to make a Christian to overcome all those difficult situations and creatures and things.

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

In the above Scripture we find something which is some what strange. We find that love is as strong as death, Eeh, how powerful that is, and that the jealousy of love is cruel as the grave and as if that is not enough, that love cannot be quenched with much water nor drowned by floods. Now that is but powerful, very powerful, as we know that some people have died as a result of drowning in floods, no wonder love is considered to be as strong as death. Apart from that, love cannot be bought, as it is not a commodity, moreover the value cannot be compared money wise.

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering;

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another,
if any man have a quarrel against any: even as
Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

**And above all these things put on charity, which
is the bond of perfectness.**

Colossians 3:12-14

Charity is the bond of perfectness meaning it binds
together all the other virtues bringing perfection,
and therefore is powerful.

Chapter 5

Love demonstrated

The love of God is not something that is hidden but something that can be seen through demonstration action wise. Let us now just look at that demonstration.

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.

John 3:16

God in the above Scripture has given the most powerful demonstration ever, by giving his all, to the world, that is, to you and me, that we have everlasting life simply by believing in his Son who came to our rescue from heaven.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should not perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

There it is again. God does not want any person to perish, but is patient enough to all giving time to each person to come back to him in repentance of one's sins in order to be forgiven in Christ Jesus and be saved and have everlasting life. The Saviour Jesus Christ promised those who believed in him and followed him, that he was going back to God the Father and that he will come back for them and they just must continue believing in God and in him (John 14:1-3).

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

In this was manifested the love of God, toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10

BEHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1 John 3:1

Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the LORD God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the LORD God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

Ezekiel 18:23, 32

God is not happy if any person dies in sin. He is only happy when a person dies in his Son Jesus Christ, why? for then that person will live eternally with God. God is waiting for each person on earth to turn away from one's evil ways and go towards him by making about turn, a hundred and eighty degrees from wherever one was and heading towards God. That is what God calls turning or returning. It is in plain language, repentance from

dead works and having faith in the living God for help to live a life worth pleasing to him.

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few;
Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:36-38

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved;)
And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

In the above scripture we do see that God's love towards mankind is great indeed despite man's fall in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-6), as he gave mankind a second chance to go back to Him as a privilege and not a right at all, as we are going to see in these three scriptures touching on angels of God.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

And prevailed not; neither was there place found any more in heaven.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:7-9

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgement;

2 Peter 2:4

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day.

Jude 6

Lucifer an archangel of God and other angels of God who rebelled against God they were never given a second chance but are destined for the great day of judgement of God and to be in hell fire eternally. Therefore I plead with all humanity not to ignore God's beckoning to mankind to go back to him in repentance and to receive his only begotten Son Jesus Christ to be saved and reconciled to Him and to now live a holy and righteous life for eternity in heaven or else judgement and hell fire awaits them (Revelation 20).

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:32

NOW before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

After that he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

Jesus answered and said unto him, what I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet: Jesus answered him, if I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

Jesus saith unto him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, ye are not all clean.

So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them Know ye what I have done to you?

Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Verily, verily I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his Lord, neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

John 13:1-17

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Isaiah 1:18-19

That was a call by God to the Israelites who were sinful to come to him in repentance and equally is an invitation by the same God, for all sinners to come and reason with him (in repentance), so as to be forgiven of their sins however many they are and however big they may seem. Now that is great love by God and there is no reason whatsoever by any person to not have the will do so, as it is for one's good/benefit as an individual.

THEN drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

And he said, A certain man had two sons:

And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in the land; and he began to be in want.

And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

And he arose, and came to his father. **But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.**

And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Luke 15:1-7; 11-24

Now that is how God loves all sinners as well as wayward Christians. God is very ready to welcome the sinner who is ready to repent and a backslidden Christian who is willing and ready to come back to him in true / genuine repentance. Now that is what is called God's unconditional love. Why? Because when you decide to go back to God, he does not give you any condition but is ready to accept you back to him just as you are. In the scripture you find that that father did not tell his son "because you had taken the portion of goods from me that

belonged to you and left me and wasted it wherever you went, do this or this, before I accept you back to me”.

Rather, his father had compassion on him and moreover did not accept him back to be his servant but to continue being a son, by ordering his servants to bring forth the best robe and put it on him and to put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet as well as to make a feast for them all to eat and be merry because the son was dead (spiritually) and is now alive again, he was lost and is found. Read further for your understanding the following: Ephesians 2:1-2 and John 3:16 as well as 2 Corinthians 7:10.

Chapter 6

Love as a Command

Because of the importance of love, we are going to find in the Scriptures that it is a commandment of God to mankind. This command was given in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament of the Holy Bible.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which command thee this day for thy good?

Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.

For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

He doth execute the judgement of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 10:12-19

The Israelite were commanded first to love God and secondly to love fellow men as well.

Thus saith the LORD unto me, Go and get thee a linen girdle, and put it upon thy loins, and put it not in water.

So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins.

And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying,

Take the girdle that thou hast got, which is upon thy loins, and arise, go to Eu-phra'-tes, and hide it there is a hole of the rock.

So I went, and hid it by Eu-phra'-tes, as the LORD commanded me.

And it came to pass after many days, that the LORD said unto me, Arise, go to Eu-phra'-tes, and take the girdle from thence, which I commanded thee to hide there.

Then I went to Eu-phra'-tes, and digged, and took the girdle from the place where I had hid it: and, behold, the girdle was marred, it was profitable for nothing.

Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Thus saith the LORD, after this manner will I mar the pride of Judah, and the great pride of Jerusalem.

This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.

For as the girdle cleaveth to the loins of a man, so have I caused to cleave unto me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah, saith the LORD; that they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory: but they would not hear.

Therefore thou shalt speak unto them this word; thus saith the LORD God of Israel,

Every bottle shall be filled with wine: and they shall say unto thee, Do we not certainly know that every bottle shall be filled with wine?

Then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land, even the kings that sit upon David's throne, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with drunkenness.

And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together, saith the LORD: I

will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them.

Hear ye, and give ear; be not proud: for the LORD hath spoken.

Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.

But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down, with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive.

Say unto the king and to the queen, humble yourselves, sit down, even the crown of your glory. The cities of the south shall be shut up, and none shall open them: Judah shall be carried away captive all of it, it shall be wholly carried away captive.

Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?

What wilt thou say when he shall punish thee? For thou hast taught them to be captains, and as chief over thee: shall not sorrows take thee, as a woman in travail?

And if thou say in thine heart,

Wherefore come these things upon me? for the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, and thy heels made bare.

Can the E-thi-o'-pi-an change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness.

This is thy Lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood.

Therefore will I discover thy skirts upon the face, that thy shame may appear.

I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, and thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! Wilt thou thee, O Jerusalem! Wilt thou not be made clean? When shall it once be?

THE word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the dearth.

Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish; they are black unto the ground; and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up.

And their nobles have sent their little ones to the waters: they came to the pits, and found no water; they returned with their vessels empty; they were ashamed and confounded, and covered their heads.

Because the ground is chapt for there was no rain in the earth, the plowmen were ashamed, they covered their heads.

Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook it, because there was no grass.

And the wild asses did stand in the high places, they snuffed up the wind like dragons; their eyes did fail, because there was no grass.

O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee.

O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the

land, and as a way faring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night?

Why shouldest thou be as a man astonished, as a mighty man that cannot save? Yet thou, O LORD, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name; leave us not.

Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins.

Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good.

When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

Then said, I, Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets say unto them Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.

Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither

have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land: By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.

And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them.

Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow.

Jeremiah 13:1-14:17

Quite a big lesson it is to the Church of Christ as well! It is our obligation as the body of Christ to

love God and to love him fully and not half-heartedly as the children of Israel did and God became angry and said he would punish them for that. We too who are Christians can equally be punished by God for stopping to love him or loving him half-heartedly, as our redemption did not come cheaply (1 Peter 1:13-19). Loving God is for our own good.

The children of Israel God did refer them as adulterers. We too are likened to adulterers and adulteresses when we don't love God fully as should be and that can make us to be far away from him such that he becomes as a stranger in our lives as we become like spoilt children who are good for nothing and it will not augur well for us. The above message is proverbial in a way similar to what the Lord Jesus Christ's teachings.

It has been said, like father, like son, and so it is with God the Father and God the Son.

Now the scripture above do remind us of the following scripture touching on the Church that loving God half-heartedly has its consequences:

UNTO the angel of the church of Eph'-e-sus write;
These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in
his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the
seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and
thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst
not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried
them which say they are apostles, and are not, and
hast found them liars:

And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my
name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because
thou hast left thy first love.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,
and repent, and do the first works; or else I will
come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy
candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:1-5

It is that serious. Despite all our efforts as
Christians if we have grown cold in our love for the
Lord we have backslidden / fallen and we become
as a useless thing before him until we recollect back
in life and do our first works with passion and zeal
so as to get acceptance / approval before our Lord.

We need to be reminded of the message of God touching on being neither here nor there, that is, being lukewarm which is dangerous (Revelation 3:14-16). Let us all strive to be hot for the Lord.

If you look at Jeremiah 14:10-12 and 15:1-6, it is so serious that even others' intercession or their fasting could not save them from God's judgement.

And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him,

Which is the first commandment of all?

And Jesus answered him, **The first of all the commandments is, Hear, o Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord:**

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:28-31

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

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

John 13:34-35

LET brotherly love continue.

Hebrews 13:1

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that **we should love one another.**

1 John 3:11

And this commandment have we from him, That **he who loveth God love his brother also.**

1 John 4:21

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude 21

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

John 15:12

That is Jesus speaking to his disciples.

Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. And **the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men**, even as we do toward you:

To the end he may **stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God**, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

The above scripture commands that we be not selective in love and that we love all men (people). Because God is love, only love will make us holy in God, as he is holy.

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Romans 12:9

In commanding to love in the above scripture God demands true, pure love and not hypocritical love. That we avoid evil (hypocritical love) and stick to true, sincere, genuine love towards people.

Chapter 7

How to have God's Love

Now I am going to touch on how one can have God's love. I now bring you to remembrance that in chapter 1 I talked on the love of God which in Greek is called Agape, and that God's love is true love and also if I may add here, it is pure love. From the above fact you can deduce that one must have God to be able to have this love and to manifest it in one's life. But mind you God is a spirit and therefore you must have the Spirit of God. To have the Spirit of God, one must be saved (born again) by the Spirit of God. I now take you to the encounter between Nicodemus and Jesus Christ (the Saviour of mankind), especially on those who have believed in him.

THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nic-o-de'-mus saith unto him, how can a man be born again when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:1-6

That's it. If, you are not born again, you don't have the Spirit of God and therefore don't have the love of God because the love of God is in the Spirit of God. Let me direct you to the relevant scripture.

But **the fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

Now notice in verse 22 that the fruit of the Spirit of God first is love, followed by other eight factors. So if you tell me that you have God's love (Agape love) and you are not saved, it is a lie from the Devil and you are a fake. In my books I am not interested in mere stories but in facts supported by the word of God and if at any time it is different, which is very rare, then it is my opinion based on life experience/other general information or knowledge acquired from other sources.

If you want to know that I am really serious on what I am saying as regards to God's love here I now bring to you a series of Scriptures touching on this precious love addressed to Christ's disciples in the gospel according to saint Matthew and saint John followed by the Church of Christ and through the various epistles to the churches.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

Give to him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:38-48

The above words were being spoken by Jesus Christ to his disciples, while on a mountain with

them. Jesus was telling them what was possible to them as they had accepted God by believing in him (Christ Jesus) and were now part of God's family. Jesus Christ was going to ask God the Father to send to the disciples the Holy Spirit and they would have God's love to do the above. (Acts 1:6-11, John 14:15-17, Acts 2: 1-4)

Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.

Little children yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

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

John 13:31-35

Jesus Christ knowing that the time for his departure was nearing he commanded his disciples to have love one to another, why? Because soon after his departure (actually 10 days) from his ascension, they will be filled with the Holy Spirit and be full of God's love! Now God's love is unique and that is why Jesus told the disciples that it is only by manifesting God's love in them shall all men know that these are the disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus' love had manifested to all men wherever he went in the flesh while on earth because he was filled with the Spirit of God his Father. (Matthew 3:13-17, John 1:29-34). Let us see another scripture for the promise of the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples as Christ told them.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth

him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you,
and shall be in you.

John 14:15-17

One must have the Spirit of truth, the Comforter to have the love of God. The Holy Spirit was dwelling in Jesus Christ among his disciples then but after Christ's ascension back to heaven to be with God the Father, he the Spirit of truth will be in them.

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; In honour preferring one another;

Romans 12:9-10

Owe no man anything, but to love one another; for he that loveth another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8

FOLLOW after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ,
Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is
named,
That he would grant you, according to the riches of
his glory, to be strengthened with might by his
Spirit in the inner man;
That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that
ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
May be able to comprehend with all saints what is
the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
And to know the love of Christ, which passeth
knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the
fullness of God.
Now unto him that is able to do exceeding
abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us.
Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus
throughout all ages, world without end. A'-men.

Ephesians 3:14-21

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgement;

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ;

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:9-11

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering;

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Colossians 3:12-14

LET brotherly love continue.

Hebrews 13:1

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture,
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do
well:

James 2:8

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,
and hope to the end for the grace that is to be
brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves
according to the former lusts in your ignorance.

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye
holy in all manner of conversation;

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of
persons judgeth according to every man's work,
pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed
with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from you
vain conversation received by tradition from your
fathers;

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb
without blemish and without spot:

Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1 Peter 1:13-23

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning that we should love one another.

Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

1 John 3:11-12

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

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

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

No man hath seen God at any time.

If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

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.

1 John 4:7-16

Chapter 8

Man's love towards fellow man

In this section I am going to talk on love that is found between man and fellow man as is recorded in the Holy Scripture how it is reflected.

And it came to pass in the days of Am-ra'-phel king of Shi'-nar, Ar'-i-och king of El-la'-sar, Ched-or-la-o'-mer king of E'-lam, and Ti'-dal king of nations;

That these made war with Be'-ra king of Sodom, and with Bir'-sha king of Go-mor'-rah, Shi'-nab king of Ze-boi'-im, and the king of Be'-la which is Zo'-ar.

All these were joined together in the vale of Sid'-dim, which is the Salt Sea.

Twelve years they served Ched-or-la-o'-mer, and the kings that were with him, and smote the Reph'-a-im in Ash'-te-roth Kar-na'-im, and the Zu'-zim in Ham, and the E'-mim in Sha'-veh Kir-i-a-tha'-im.

And the Hor'-ites in their mount Seir, unto El-par'-an, which is by the wilderness.

And they returned, and came to En-mish'-pat, which is Ka'-desh, and smote all the country of A-

mal'-ek-ites, and all the Am'-o-rites, that dwelt in Haz'-e-zon-ta'-mar.

And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Go-mor'-rah, and the king of Ad'-mah, and the king of Ze-boi'-im, and the king of Be'-la (the same is Zo'-ar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Sid'-dim; With Ched-or-la-o'-mer the king of E'-lam, and with Ti'-dal king of nations, and Am'-ra-phel king of Shinar, and Ar'-i-och king of El-la'-sar; four kings with five.

And the vale of Sid'-dim was full of slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Go-mor'-rah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain.

And they took all the goods of Sodom and Go-mor'-rah and all their vituals, and went their way.

And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mam'-re, the Am'-o-rite, brother of Esh'-col, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.

And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Ho'-bah which is on the left hand of Damascus.

And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

Genesis 14:1-16

And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgement; that

the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

And the LORD said, because the cry of Sodom and Go-mor-'rah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: with thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?

And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken up on me to speak unto the LORD, which am but dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

And he said unto him, Oh, let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there.

And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.

And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the LORD: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

And he said, Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

Genesis 18:16-33

In the above two scriptures we do see first how Abram when he heard that Sodom and Gomorrah was attacked and his brother's son Lot was taken captive, he took the initiative to pursue the attackers out of his love for Lot and he brought back again Lot and his goods and the women and the people. The same way when in the second case he had been visited by angels and told how God was going to destroy those cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of very grievous sin, out of love Abraham this time round he communed with the LORD interceding for Sodom as his brother's son Lot lived in that city. The Lord then did spare Lot and his household as we read the next chapter of the book in chapter 19.

Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith,
Behold the Lamb of God!

And the two disciples heard him speak, and they
followed Jesus.

Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and
saith unto them,

What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which
is to say, being interpreted Master,) where dwellest
thou?

He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and
saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day:
for it was about the tenth hour.

One of the two which heard John speak, and
followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith
unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is,
being interpreted, the Christ.

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus
beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon The son of
Jona: thou shalt be called Ce'-phas, which is by
interpretation, A stone.

John 1:35-42

We can see in that scripture that surely Andrew loved his brother Simon and that is why he went first to him after finding Jesus Christ and he witnessed to him and took him to Jesus Christ, the Messiah. He realized he could not keep such good news to himself but must share it with his brother Simon. For further reading on the name Cephas and a stone we get further clarity in the book according to saint Matthew (Matthew 16:13-19).

And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was tender-eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well-favoured.

And Jacob loved Rachel, and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.

And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed into him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

Genesis 29:16-20

Because of the love of Jacob towards Rachel he saw working for another seven years as nothing.

And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or not.

And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sack cloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

And all his sons and his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said,

For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

Genesis 37:31-35

Jacob loved his youngest son Joseph so much that he could not be comforted by the words of his sons and daughters.

And he sent Judah before unto Joseph, to direct his face unto Go'-shen; and they came into the land of Go'-shen.

And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Go'-shen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.

And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive.

Genesis 46:28-30

Jacob was overjoyed to see his son Joseph still alive that he saw it okay now even if he died, as his heart was now at peace.

AND there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.

And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.

And when she could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.

And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.

And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?

And Pharaoh's daughter said to her Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, because I drew him out of the water.

Exodus 2:1-10

The mother of Moses loved him so much that she hid him for three months and even later made a safe ark for him before putting him by a river brink.

The sister to Moses also loved him and when her mother had put baby Moses by the river's brink, she stood afar off to wit what would be done to him and when she saw Pharaoh's daughter and her maidens who found the baby, she went and suggested to Pharaoh's daughter if she can call a nurse of the Hebrew women to nurse the child and when she was given the nod went and brought her own mother instead of any other woman to nurse him.

And she said, Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister-in-law.

And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.

When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

Ruth 1:15-18

Ruth loved her mother-in-law so much such that she could not part ways with her even when her husband had died.

But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen e'-phod.

Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

1 Samuel 2:18-19

The love of Samuel's mother made her to make a little coat every year for the child Samuel.

AND it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

1 Samuel 18:1-3

David loved the child born out of adultery and that is why he prayed and fasted for the child's recovery from sickness.

Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.

And the one woman said, O my Lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.

And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.

And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine hand maid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

And when I arose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.

And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king.

Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.

And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son,

and she said, O my Lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.

Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.

1 Kings 3:16-27

The true mother of the disputed son showed her love for her child to the king by what she uttered by showing much concern for his life-which was to be spared.

Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Si'-don.

And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Then came she and worshiped him, saying, Lord help me.

But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table.

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Matthew 15:21-28

The Canaanite woman argued with the Lord because she loved her daughter very much.

And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.

And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Ja'-i'-rus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at point of death: I pray thee, come

and lay thy hands on her, That she may be healed;
and she shall live.

And Jesus went with him, and much people
followed him, and thronged him.

Mark 5:21-24

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that
which evil; cleave to that which is good.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly
love; in honour preferring one another.

Romans 12:9-10

Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you;
and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not
yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay for
the parents, but the parents for the children.

And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you;
though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be
loved.

2 Corinthians 12:14-15

Apostle Paul had love for the church at Corinth and
could afford to visit them even a third time.

For God is my record, how greatly I long after you
all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet
more and more in knowledge and in all judgement;
That ye may approve things that are excellent; that
ye may be sincere and without offense till the day
of Christ;

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which
are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of
God.

Philippians 1:8-11

THEREFORE, my brethren dearly beloved and
longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the
Lord, my dearly beloved.

Philippians 4:1

Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord
Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

And the Lord make you to increase and abound in
love and toward another, and toward all men, even
as we do toward you:

To the end he may stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phy-gel'-lus and Her-mog'-e-nes.

The Lord give mercy unto the house of O-nes-iph'-o-rus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chains:

But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.

The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Eph'-e-sus, thou knowest very well.

2 Timothy 1:15-18

Because of Onesiphorus' love towards Apostle Paul, he refreshed him now and then and was not ashamed to see the apostle in chains and when in Rome diligently sought out for the apostle and found him.

Now there is something that some have taken as love among people but is just lust, which is a totally different thing. Love is kind, gentle and patient but lust is but the opposite of all that. A good example is of rapists who don't have any iota of love but are full of lust of the flesh. This selfish love which is not from God is with those who are not truly born again and is for selfish ambition in seeking to get things from your fellow men and once they get what they want from a person, the "love" just vanishes because it was a faked love and no love at all from the outset.

Chapter 9

Man's love towards God

In ending this last chapter of the book let me now touch something on the love of man towards God.

NEB-U-CHAD-NEZ'-ZAR the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Du'-ra, in the province of Babylon.

Then Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar the king had set up.

Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar had set up.

Then a herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded,
O people, nations, and languages,
That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet,
flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all
kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the
golden image that Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar the king
hath set up.

And whoso falleth not down and worshipeth shall
the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning
fiery furnace.

Therefore at that time, when all the people heard
the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut,
psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the
nations, and the languages fell down and worshiped
the golden image that Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar the king
had set up.

Wherefore at that time certain Chalde'-ans came
near, and accused the Jews.

They spake and said to the king Neb-u-chad-nez'-
zar, O king, live for ever.

Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man
that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp,
sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of

music, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

And whoso falleth not down and worshipeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Then Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go. Then they brought these men before the king.

Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour

into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, answered and said to the king, O Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hands, O king.

But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Daniel 3:1-18

The trio loved God so much that they were ready to die for his sake than to go against the commandment of God (Deuteronomy 5:6-10)

IT pleased Da-ri'-us to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Then Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Da-ri'-us, live for ever.

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the dens of lions.

Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Wherefore king Da-ri'-us signed the writing and the decree.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did afore time.

Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree;

Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Then answered they and said before the king, that Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of

Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

Daniel 6:1-15

Daniel loved the Lord and that is why he kept praying to God as usual despite the king's decree.

And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Cae-sa-re'-a: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judea a certain prophet, named Ag'-abus.

And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, so shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

Acts 21:8-14

Apostle Paul was so much in love with Christ who saved him that he was ready to die for his sake and could not be persuaded.

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and

rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

(Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phan'-u-el, of the tribe of Asher: she was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;

And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Luke 2:25-38

And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut of his right ear.

**And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far.
And he touched his ear, and healed him.**

Luke 22:47-51

That was Simon Peter in action. He couldn't wait to get Jesus' reply to the other Disciples question which they had posed to the Lord. (John 18:1-11). Apostle Peter loved the Lord and was ready to fight when the Lord's life was at stake – only he knew not it was a spiritual one this time round needing no sword.

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him.

And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in

the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

And stood at his feet behind his weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon,
Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house,
thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath
washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the
hairs of her head.

Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the
time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this
woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are
many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to
whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven

Luke 7:36-48

We have seen somehow the love of man towards
God but let us see now what God says how man
need to love him and especially those who have
given their lives to the Lord.

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I
came not to send peace, but a sword.

For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

And a man's foe shall be they of his own household.

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Matthew 10:34-37

The above scripture is very clear that man's love towards God need be greater than to other men. Jesus was addressing his disciples at that time. Christians need have more love to their Lord and Saviour.

But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:34-40

The above scripture puts it even clearer, that man's love towards God need to be prioritized. God must come first before anyone else. A similar scripture touching on eternal life is as follows.

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

He said unto him, what is written in the law? How readest thou?

And he answering said, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

Luke 10:25 - 28

The above scripture underscores the love of man towards God and which also determines man's eternity after the life on earth. Now that is a home work and half for all of us to answer with all sincerity our love to God, if at all it reaches God's expectation. Now here comes a bombshell!

And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:25-26

Now the above scripture Jesus was addressing a great crowd of people who were following him and his words may seem to be quite harsh to the audience. But what he told them was the plain truth touching on salvation. The condition is that a candidate for salvation must as an individual (and

not as a crowd) go to him in repentance and acknowledge him as Lord and Saviour in life and make him the first priority over all other people, meaning loving him more than all the rest (becoming a pleaser of the Lord and not a men pleaser), as is often the case with many people in life (John 6:39-47).

If one takes Jesus' speech literally one would think that he was advocating for hatred among the crowd and their close relatives. No, he was merely saying in simple terms that God need to be loved most in life; being feared, honoured and obeyed. God is love and his Son Jesus equally is the same and cannot therefore advocate for hatred among the people.

Notes to the reader

I thank you for reading this book. If you have anything to say about it please don't hesitate to write by using the address given below. I hope you enjoyed reading the book and have greatly appreciated the love of God our Creator.

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