

Deuteronomy 30:6 (NLT) ⁶“The Lord your God will change your heart^[b] and the hearts of all your descendants, so that you will love him with all your heart and soul and so you may live!

Strong Love Changes us!

3 Descriptions of Strong Love / Foundational Verses

- I. **John 3:16 (NLT)** ¹⁶“For this is how God loved the world: He gave^[g] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.
- II. **1 John 4:7-10 (NLT)** ⁷Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, **for love comes from God**. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸But anyone who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**.⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.
- III. **1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (NLT)** ¹ If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing. ³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;^[a] but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing.⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

How To Have A Changed Heart!:

1. Love God

Matthew 22:36-40 (NLT) ³⁶“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”
³⁷ Jesus replied, “**You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.**”^[e] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: **‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**^[f] ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

2. Love People

Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT) ⁴³“You have heard the law that says, **‘Love your neighbor’**^[q] and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies!^[i] Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he

sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷If you are kind only to your friends,^[s] how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

3. Love Believers

John 13:34 (NLT) ³⁴So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

John 17:20-21 (NLT) ²⁰“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

4. Value People Being With God Both Now and Eternity (Not Your Stuff)

Matthew 16:24-26 (NLT) ²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?^[a] Is anything worth more than your soul?

(What is more important than peoples soul in eternity? Do we value people and their eternity?)

John 10:10 (NLT) ¹⁰The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

(Jesus purpose is abundant life here and eternity!)

Philippians 2:1-4 (NIV) ¹Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

(Us comforted by His love, and having the same love, be in unity, don’t be selfish, rather value others above yourself!)

Luke 12:15 (NLT) ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

(We think LIFE is in an abundance of possessions, but its not! Life is in Jesus, purpose, and others life!)

5. Transform My Mind

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT) ¹And so, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find

acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.^[b] ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

6. Forgive (Forgive by decision and obedience)

Matthew 6:8-15 (NLT) ⁸ Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! ⁹ Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.¹¹ Give us today the food we need,^[a] ¹² and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation,^[b] but rescue us from the evil one.^[c]

¹⁴ "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Luke 17: 3b-10 (NLT) "If another believer^[a] sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. ⁴ Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive."

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Show us how to increase our faith."

⁶ The Lord answered, "If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May you be uprooted and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you!

⁷ "When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of sheep, does his master say, 'Come in and eat with me'? ⁸ No, he says, 'Prepare my meal, put on your apron, and serve me while I eat. Then you can eat later.' ⁹ And does the master thank the servant for doing what he was told to do? Of course not. ¹⁰ In the same way, when you obey me you should say, 'We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty.'"

7. Give and Receive in Ministry and Relationship

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Acts 2:42-47 (NLT) Loving Connected Community – Purposes in Operation, Receiving in Love

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper^[i]), and to prayer.

⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at

the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity^[i]—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Gauge of Love For Jesus – Is It Easy To Keep His Commandments?

John 14:15 (NASB): *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*

Love me, and its easy to keep my commandments.

Luke 22:60-62 (NLT)³⁴ But Jesus said, “Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.”

⁵⁴ So they arrested him and led him to the high priest's home. And Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ The guards lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat around it, and Peter joined them there. ⁵⁶ A servant girl noticed him in the firelight and began staring at him. Finally she said, “This man was one of Jesus' followers!”

⁵⁷ But Peter denied it. “Woman,” he said, “I don't even know him!”

⁵⁸ After a while someone else looked at him and said, “You must be one of them!”

“No, man, I'm not!” Peter retorted.

⁵⁹ About an hour later someone else insisted, “This must be one of them, because he is a Galilean, too.”

⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I don't know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

⁶¹ At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed through Peter's mind: “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.” ⁶² And Peter left the courtyard, **weeping bitterly.**

Action To Help In Loving God And People

- 1. Receive God's Love (Sacrifice, Goodness, Abundant Life and Eternal Life)**
- 2. Choose To Be Obedient**
- 3. Get To Know Jesus and The Good Father Through The Word – Especially Jesus Words**
- 4. Worship and Be Thankful**
- 5. Welcome The Holy Spirit's Indwelling, Power, and Guidance**
- 6. Have a Relationship with God**
- 7. See What God Sees in People (Value People, Not Stuff and Pleasure)**