

Advance to the Manger — Day 14

Advance in Love

1 John 4:19 TPT

“Our love for others is our grateful response to the love God first demonstrated to us.”

Introduction:

Responding in Love

- Read 1 John 4:19
- Explore the connection between God's love and our response.
- Respond to God's love with love for others.

As we approach the manger during this Christmas season, we are reminded of God's incredible love for us. The birth of Jesus Christ is a testament to the depth of God's love and His desire to reconcile us to Himself. In 1 John 4:19, we read a simple yet powerful statement that encapsulates the essence of our response to God's love. Today, we reflect on this verse and discover how responding in love can lead us to the manger and transform our lives.

Heart Reflection

1. The Initiator of Love:

God is the initiator of love. Before we even had the capacity to love Him, He loved us completely and unconditionally. The manger represents the ultimate expression of His love for humanity. As we advance toward the manger, let us humbly acknowledge the depth of God's love for us. His love is not based on our merit or worthiness, but on His own nature. It is a love that surpasses understanding and is freely given to us.

2. A Response of Love:

In response to God's love, we are called to love one another. Our love for others is not based on their actions, beliefs, or even their love for us. Instead, it is a reflection of the love we have received from God. As we advance to the manger, let us examine our hearts and ask ourselves if our love for others truly reflects the love of Christ. Are we extending grace, forgiveness, and compassion to those around us?

3. Love as a Transforming Force:

Our response of love has the power to transform lives. When we love others as Christ loved us, we become vessels of His love in a broken world. Our love can bring healing, reconciliation, and restoration. As we advance to the manger, let us allow the love of Christ to flow through us, impacting the lives of those around us. Through our love, others can encounter the transforming power of God's love.

Call To Action

- Receive God's Love:
 - Take time to reflect on the depth of God's love for you.
 - Receive His love with gratitude and allow it to fill your heart.
 - Spend time in prayer and meditation, allowing His love to transform your perspective and actions.

- **Extend Love to Others:**
 - Purposefully seek opportunities to demonstrate love to others.
 - Show kindness, offer forgiveness, and extend grace to those around you.
 - Remember that our love for others is a response to God's love for us.

- **Pray for a Heart of Love:**
 - Ask God to fill your heart with His love.
 - Pray that He would help you see others through His eyes and respond to them with love and compassion.
 - Seek His guidance in loving others sacrificially, as Christ loved us.

Take A Way

As we advance to the manger, let us respond to God's love by loving others. May we remember that God's love is the initiator, and our love for others is a response to His great love for us. Let us embrace the transforming power of love and allow it to flow through us, impacting lives and bringing glory to God. As we journey towards the manger, may our lives be a reflection of the love of Christ, shining brightly in a world in need of His love.

Prayer:

Oh Lord,
thank You for loving us first. Help us to receive Your love and respond by loving others. Fill our hearts with Your love and transform us into vessels of Your grace and compassion. Guide us as we seek to love others as You have loved us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.