

LOVE Overcomes March 17, 2024

#belikejesus

***To help us ALL recognize, know, & experience the Love of God
God's powerful love overcomes. His love is victorious. His love wins.***

Jeremiah 31:3 AMP "...I've loved you w/ an everlasting love; Therefore w/ lovingkindness I've drawn you & continued My faithfulness to you." (MSG *I've never quit loving you & never will. Expect love, love, & more love!*)

***God's thoughts toward us are loving all the time!
We're not a problem. Every time God thinks of us, He thinks love.***

Ephesians 2:4 AMP God, being so very rich in mercy, because of **His** great & wonderful **love** w/ which **He loved** us, & even when we were spiritually dead & separated from Him because of our sins, He made us spiritually alive together w/ Christ (*for by His grace - His undeserved favor & mercy – you've been saved from God's judgment*).

Romans 8:35 TPT Who could ever separate us from the endless love of God's Anointed One? *Absolutely no one!* For nothing in the universe has the power to diminish His love toward us. Troubles, pressures, & problems are unable to come between us & heaven's love. What about persecutions, deprivations, dangers, & death threats? No, for they're all impotent to hinder omnipotent love... **37** Yet even in the midst of all these things, we triumph over them all, for God has made us to be more than conquerors, & His demonstrated love is our glorious victory over everything! **38** So now I live w/ the confidence that there's nothing in the universe w/ the power to separate us from God's love. I'm convinced that His love will triumph over death, life's troubles, fallen angels, or dark rulers in the heavens. There's nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken His love. **39** There's no power above us or beneath us-no power that could ever be found in the universe that can distance us from God's passionate love, which is lavished upon us through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One!

***Nothing God has ever done, or is doing, or will ever do,
is separate from His love. His love is who He is.***

*Even when we don't reciprocate His love, His love remains.
What can the devil do to me, someone who's grounded in God's love?*

John 13:34 Now I'm giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I've loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you're My disciples.

*Love is sacrificial & selfless.

*Love involves the lover acting on behalf of others.

*Love costs the lover. The greatest love costs the most.

1 John 4:20 MSG If anyone boasts, "I love God," & goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he's a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.

God's Love shows great care; devotion, acceptance; thoughtfulness

Love isn't some sentimental feeling. It's a sacrificial action. It means interrupting my schedule, spending my money, risking my feelings, ruining my property...for a stranger; so that I can do what's best for them.

I AM AN AMBASSADOR OF HIS LOVE

Romans 12:9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what's wrong. Hold tightly to what's good.¹⁰ Love each other w/ genuine affection & take delight in honoring each other.¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard & serve the Lord enthusiastically.¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, & keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy w/ those who are happy, & weep w/ those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony w/ each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. Don't think you know it all!

*Christian love is only known by the actions that it prompts.
(If there's no action, there's no love.)*

1 Corinthians 14:1a Let love be your highest goal!

*Loving people not only glorifies God,
but it enables us to live the highest & most fulfilling life on earth.*

*Loving people, & letting them love us, is what life's all about.
When we build loving relationships w/ people, our lives are fulfilled*

5 Keys To Building Loving Relationships w/ People

1. Know people – Knowing others; making them feel valued = success.

Ephesians 5:1 AMP Be imitators of God, copy & follow His example, as well-beloved children imitate their father. 2 Walk in love, esteeming & delighting in one another as Christ loved us & gave Himself up for us, a slain offering & sacrifice to God, for you...

Knowing people means being a good listener & wanting to understand.

2. Have faith in people – Choose to hope & believe & trust in others.
(the alternative is to be selfish & alone)

People may let you down, but it's worth the risk. Keep the faith.

Galatians 5:6b TPT ...All that matters now is living in the faith that is activated and brought to perfection by love.

3. Forgive people – to forgive & forget is necessary when loving others.

Colossians 3:12 Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves w/ tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, & patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults & forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves w/ love...

Forgive anyone who offends you, because God forgave you...

4. Connect w/ people – Make the sacrifice of time – communication, interaction, & communion.

(redeem the time, make the most of every opportunity)

***When we isolate ourselves or stay separated from people,
we struggle through life & we're limited.***

Hebrews 10:24 Let's think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love & good works. 25 And let's not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another...

***You can't be close to people & stay isolated all the time.
Loving people well, means you must make time for them***

5. Be intimate w/ people – be transparent, open, honest, & vulnerable

Galatians 5:13 You've been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Intimacy w/ people means we let ourselves be known.